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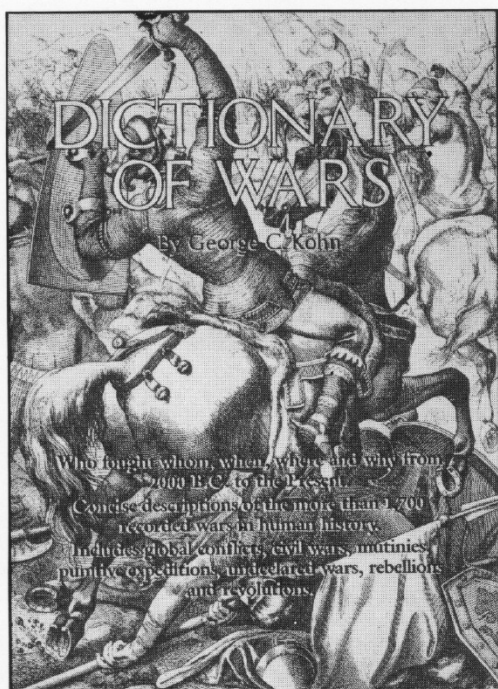
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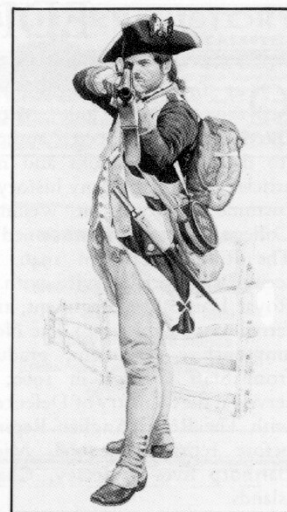
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Our cover illustration
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Our first-time contributors to this issue include **Michael Barthorp**, the respected author of (to date) eleven books and many articles on British Army history and costume. Educated at Wellington College, he was commissioned into The Rifle Brigade in 1946, later seeing Territorial service with The Royal Hampshire Regiment; transferred as a Regular into The Northamptonshire Regiment; graduated from Staff College in 1960; and served at the Ministry of Defence and with The Royal Anglian Regiment before retiring in 1968. Michael Barthorp lives in Jersey, Channel Islands.

His article on Omdurman is illustrated by **Pierre Turner**, whose uniform studies are well known to readers of the Blandford Press military list. Apart from his work as a commercial artist and illustrator Pierre, who lives in Lyme Regis, Dorset, has also designed model figures for a manufacturer of military miniatures.

John Mollo, born in 1931, is a member of one of the best-known families in the field of historical military research. He did his national service with 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry in Hong Kong; and started work in the film industry as historical adviser on *The Charge of the Light Brigade* in 1966. Since then his film credits as costume designer and/or military adviser have included *The Adventures of Gerard*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, *Barry Lyndon*, *Star Wars*, *Alien*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Outland*, *Gandhi*, *Greystoke*, *King David* and *Revolution*.

We also welcome to the pages of an English publication **Denis Lassus** of Paris, whose most recent work has been the important series on the dress and equipment of French airborne troops in *Militaria* magazine. Born in 1945, M. Lassus served as an NCO and later as an officer in the French Army from 1964 to 1976. A keen collector of Second World War militaria, he has more recently turned his attention to the much less well-trodden subject of the French Army since 1945.

His re-creation of the uniforms of Cdt. Bigeard is illustrated by **Kevin Lyles**, whose work — showing extraordinary sophistication for an artist who only left college in 1982 — needs little introduction to British readers. He divides his time between illustration work, including several titles already in the Osprey *Ment-at-Arms* and *Elite* series, and advertising commissions in the UK and abroad. He has accompanied the Royal Marines on exercise in Portugal and, during two consecutive winters, in Norway. A keen pistol and rifle shot, he lives in North London.

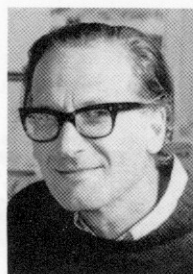
★ ★ ★

Errata: We trust that this will not be too regular a feature of our Editorials, but we shall do our best to correct our own mistakes. On p. 8 of

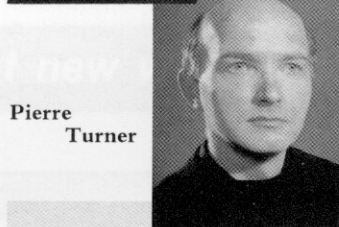
'*MI*' No. 2 the photo of the Garter Star turnback ornament is upside down. On p. 21 the left-hand, unstrung bow is reversed left to right.

★ ★ ★

We are interested to learn of the launching of **The Military Book Library**, c/o Neville Cross, at Rose Cottage, Lartington, Barnard Castle, N. Riding of Yorkshire. This facility offers to subscribers (£8 annual membership for individuals; companies, by agreement; free quarterly journal) a military historical research service, using the resources of the Library itself and of a network of outside consultants. Members are charged £1 plus 30p P&P per research request. In time, if membership grows sufficiently, it is hoped to offer a postal book loan service as well. We believe this facility could be of great interest to our readers, and would be glad to receive reports of the quality of services provided. **[M]**



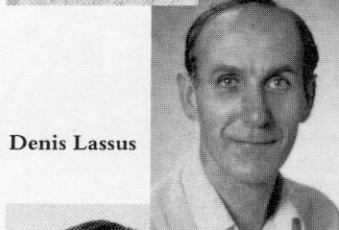
Michael Barthorp



Pierre Turner



John Mollo



Denis Lassus



Kevin Lyles

The current auction scene offers fewer sales than last year and, in general, fewer lots. Christies cancelled their July sale, and Sothebys do not have another before November. Philips, and Christies South Kensington, continue to hold regular sales, however: unlike some houses, they are happy to handle items in the lower price ranges. While good pieces will always sell, dealers are reluctant these days to buy more ordinary lots except at bargain prices. For the (surprisingly few) collectors prepared to brave the auction room, this means that more mundane pieces may well be picked up reasonably.

Armour collectors are less likely to be lucky: so great is demand that even Victorian copies of doubtful quality fetch prices well above what many see as their true value. Swords and antique firearms are less in demand, with prices rather unpredictable. In Sothebys' April sale several good-quality cased English revolvers went for between £400 and £900.

Militaria (i.e. everything other than arms and armour) is generally holding its price level, though some quality pieces are costing more. Shoulder belt plates have increased steadily: a pleasing group of late 18th/early 19th century Scottish volunteer units made between £210 and £340 in Sothebys' April sale, while one for the 1st King's Dragoon Guards made £550.

On 11 July Christies South Kensington held a sale of 242 lots entirely devoted to militaria. Prices realised included £6,000 for a uniform and saddle belonging to Tsar Alexander II; £3,500 for the helmet of a Russian general or Guards Infantry officer; £2,400 for an 1843 3rd Dragoon Guards officer's helmet, and £2,200 for an early Victorian standard of the same regiment; and £1,400 for the partial uniform of a 10th Hussars officer of the 1930s. A khaki-covered 1903 water bottle reached £45!

Philips' antique arms and armour sale on 3 July saw an Indian *khanjar*, with jade hilt inlaid with gold and precious stones, sold for £1,600. A rare pair of Georgian drum majors' batons made £650 and £440; a sabretasche of the Madras Light Cavalry fetched £280, and a cased Navy Colt revolver £1,000.

A sale at Sothebys' Billingshurst rooms on 7 July included several unusual pieces. An extremely rare Pritchard Greener bayonet designed to fit a First World War Webley Mk. 6 revolver made £726; and a fine pair of Royal Sussex Regt. light infantry officer's 'wings', c. 1840, fetched £297.

The traditionally slack summer period, and the dearth of tourists, should remind collectors of the opportunities offered by several top class 'out of town' rooms. The long-established firm of Wallis & Wallis at Lewes in Sussex holds periodic arms and armour sales, and rather specialises in militaria. For the collector with limited funds and a taste for the more popular and readily available

items, Kent Arms Sales are difficult to beat, with frequent sales of many lots ranging in value from a few pounds to thousands.

Finally, it will be interesting to see what prices are made by two items in Christies South Kensington's 18 November sale: a Military General Service Medal with Albuhera clasp, awarded to a private of the 57th wounded at that battle; and a Naval General Service with Trafalgar clasp awarded to a 12-year-old boy aboard HMS *Victory*.

Frederick Wilkinson

LETTERS

Military Illustrated will be glad to publish readers' letters which advance the information given in our articles; and to pass on to contributors queries more suitably dealt with by private correspondence. We reserve the right to select, for reasons of space, only the most relevant passages for publication.

Crazy Horse

I was most impressed by your minutely detailed reconstruction of Crazy Horse's appearance ('*MI*' No. 1) ... but puzzled by the absence of a portrait photograph? C. W. Martin
Brighton, Sussex

Jason Hook writes: As far as I am aware, no authenticated portrait exists. One purported photograph (see Spotted Tail's Folk, George E. Hyde) is identified by Mari Sandoz as showing the second husband of a trader's daughter whom Crazy Horse married during his brief stay on the reservation, and who apparently adopted his great predecessor's name after Crazy Horse's death. Another (see Fighting Indians of the West, Schmitt & Brown) was identified by the original photographer, S. J. Morrow, as a man named 'Crazy in the Lodge'.

Cremona catapults

Can you tell me a little more about the units which used the two catapults whose remains were found near the battlefield of Cremona ('*MI*' No. 2)?

A. A. Fisher
Nottingham

Paul Holder writes: Legio IV (or 'III') Macedonica was raised in 48 BC, taking its name from Macedonian service c. 47-44 BC. It served in Spain, 30 BC-AD 43; and thereafter was based at Mainz in Upper Germany until the civil wars of AD 68-70, during which part fought at Cremona, and part surrendered to Civilis' rebels in Germany. The Cremona survivors formed the rump of Vespasian's creation, Legio IV Flavia, and were posted to Dalmatia.

Legio XVI (sometimes, 'Gallica') was raised by Augustus and served on the Rhine from 30 BC. In AD 68 it was based at Neuss in Lower Germany. Again, part of the legion marched to Italy to support Vitellius, and part remained,

The British Infantryman at Omdurman, 1898



MICHAEL BARTHORP
Paintings by PIERRE TURNER

On 2 September 1898 Sir Herbert Kitchener's 25,800 strong Anglo-Egyptian army defeated the 52,000 warriors of the Khalifa Abdullah el-Taishi at the Battle of Omdurman, or Kerreri. The death of Charles Gordon at Khartoum 13 years earlier was avenged, and the re-conquest of Egypt's lost province of the Sudan was completed. The fighting lasted nearly five hours; and, despite the Dervishes' fanatical courage, and mistakes made by Kitchener, it demonstrated the inability of a numerically superior mass army, albeit with some firearms and a degree of organisation, to prevail against modern artillery, machine guns and magazine rifles.

The battle fell into four phases. First came mass frontal attacks on Kitchener's infantry formed in close order, the British behind a *zareba*, the Egyptians/Sudanese in shallow trenches, which coincided with the drawing away from the main battle of the Dervish left wing by the Egyptian cavalry. Second, the action of the 21st Lancers on Kitchener's left developed as the infantry began to advance. Third, the Khalifa's reserve and the returning Dervish left wing made counterattacks on Kitchener's right flank infantry brigade, MacDonald's Sudanese, supported by one

British brigade. The final phase was the rout of the Dervishes, and Kitchener's advance to Omdurman.

The backbone of Kitchener's force was his British Infantry Division, formed as follows:

1st Brigade

1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regt.

1st Bn., Lincolnshire Regt.

1st Bn., Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, Duke of Albany's)

1st Bn., Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

2nd Brigade

1st Bn., Grenadier Guards

1st Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers

2nd Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers
2nd Bn., Rifle Brigade
Maxim detachment:

1st Bn., Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's)

The 1st Bde. had been in the Sudan since late January, and had fought at Atbara on 8 April; but the 2nd Bde. did not reach the army until August. The war correspondent, G. W. Stevens, was forcibly struck by the unacclimatised appearance of these newcomers — particularly the Guards and Rifle Brigade, from Gibraltar and Malta respectively — compared with that of the 1st Bde., of whom 'many were bearded, all were tanned . . . acclimatised . . . hardened by perpetual labours, and confident in the recollection of victory'. However, by the time the enemy were encountered, a 65-mile advance across the desert had rubbed the newness off the more recent arrivals. This article aims to reconstruct the appearance of these infantrymen on the day of Omdurman, the last battle of its kind to be fought by Victorian soldiers.

Although khaki had been officially authorised in India in 1885, and worn in various

Officer and men of the Camerons on the march: note black sporrans with white tassels. Water bottles, and here, less usually, haversacks are slung over the rest of the equipment. Most, if not all officers had acquired the new Wolseley helmet shown here; it had a flatter brim and, being made in khaki, did not need a cover. Officers' frocks in the Highland regiments differed from the men's in having breast pocket flaps 'hollowed' at the centre, and fastened at the pointed ends with drill-covered buttons. Like all officers this man wears the Sam Browne leather equipment with double braces; the holstered revolver would be one of the Marks of .45 in. Webley. Highland officers' broadswords, carried in a frog attached to the Sam Browne, had a simple crossbar guard instead of the full dress basket guard. (National Army Museum)

ad hoc forms long before that, it was not until 1896 that a universal khaki uniform was introduced for all other foreign service. The Sudan campaign was therefore the first in which this dress was generally used outside India.

UNIFORMS

It was manufactured of drill material — twilled linen or cotton, similar to American jean — and dyed a light brown or sand colour. For English battalions it consisted of a jacket, properly termed a

Colour-sergeants of the 2nd Rifle Brigade, 2nd Bde., fully equipped for the advance up the Nile. Each carries a second haversack, its sling 'hooked' under the pouches, instead of the valise. Greatcoats are rolled and attached to the back of the waistbelts, with mess-tins on top. Canvas covers protect the action of the rifles. These items, apart from the mess-tin, were later left on the river boats with the other regimental baggage. The water bottle sling, over the left shoulder, is not black like the rest of the equipment. Note black buttons and black-and-gold rank badges. (Navy and Army Illustrated)

'frock', and trousers, weighing 1 lb. 9 oz. and 1 lb. 4 oz. respectively. In style the frock resembled the tunic, with standing collar and skirts, but more loosely cut. It fastened in front with only five small-size brass buttons (black horn for Rifles). It was furnished with two patch breast pockets, with a 1-in. centre pleat, and a pointed flap with one button. The same buttons fastened the shoulder straps, which usually bore a metal title in the abbreviated regimental designation. The Grenadier Guards and Rifle Brigade had their own regimental button patterns, but all Line battalions had the universal Royal Arms (see p. 12).

Highland battalions wore a similar frock, except that its skirts were fractionally shorter, and rounded off at the front corners. Their cuff stitching simulated the 'gauntlet' shape on their doublets, from 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep at the front rising to 5 in. at the rear, in contrast to the pointed cuff stitching of English battalions, 5 in. deep on the outer sleeve and 2 in. on the inner.

As undergarments soldiers were issued with woollen vests with a two-button neck opening and elbow-length sleeves; and flannel 'grey-back' collarless shirts with a three-button opening, a white cotton neckband, and long sleeves. Whether soldiers actually wore both vests and shirts under their frocks in the fierce heat was probably a matter of personal preference, but any idea of stripping off was actively dis-



couraged. Indeed, though shirtsleeves were permitted on working parties, it was generally believed that the body must be shielded from the sun's rays. Hence the issue of the spine-pad: a length of quilted drill material buttoned to the shoulders and waist, and running down the spine outside the frock. Photographs of the campaign suggest that what Steevens called the 'sun-dried' battalions of the 1st Bde. had mostly discarded this item, though he observed the newly arrived Grenadiers with theirs 'sticking out all

over them at the grotesque angles'.

A diligent search of photographs has failed, unsurprisingly, to disclose any example of the underpants which the soldier doubtless wore beneath his drill trousers. . . . These trousers resembled in cut the home service pattern, being high at the waist, fairly narrow in the leg, and with a slight flare at the bottom where they were shaped over the instep; they were supported by belt or braces of the soldier's choice, and often by both. Round the lower leg,

from the boot upwards, were rolled serge puttees (described by Steevens as 'green-yellow') which tied below the knee with a tape. In some photographs the puttees appear to be of a darker shade than the trousers, but usually they seem similar in colour.

Below the puttees came that essential part of the infantryman — his boots. Of black leather, with stitched metal-studded soles with steel tips and heels, but without toe-caps, these boots evoked harsh words from Steevens, and later in Parlia-

ment. It was expected to withstand hard work in conditions of drought, over rock, gravel and sand; yet earlier in the campaign, after the 1st Bde. had marched 134 miles in five and a half days, Steevens noticed that the soles 'had peeled off, and instead of a solid double sole, revealed a layer of shoddy packing sandwiched between two thin slices of leather'. This serious defect, attributed to sharp practice by contractors and the cutting effect of fine, dry sand on stitched leather, was something which the Egyptian troops, who wore a riveted boot, avoided.

HIGHLAND DISTINCTIONS

In addition to the minor differences in their frocks, already described, the two Highland battalions retained their heavy tartan kilts even in the intense heat of the Sudan. The Seaforth wore Mackenzie of Seaforth, as used by their 2nd Battalion's fore-

bears, the old 78th; this was the Black Watch or Government green, blue and black pattern with one red and two white lines added. The Camerons wore the unique Cameron of Erracht, which alone of military tartans owed nothing to the Government pattern; it had been specially designed for the regiment by the mother of Alan Cameron

of Erracht, who raised the 79th in 1793.¹

In front of the kilt, suspended by a black leather strap passing over the hips under the frock skirts, hung the full dress sporran. For the Seaforth this was of white hair with black tassels, the top of black leather edged with white metal for the rank and file, entirely of metal for ser-

geants, and ensigned with the regimental badge of a stag's head over a scroll 'CUIDICH'N RIGH' ('Help the King'). The Camerons wore black hair with white tassels, with a

¹It has been suggested that it derived from the similar Clan Macdonald tartan with the yellow lines of Clan Cameron added; but as clan tartans were not rigidly defined in 1793, it was probably merely based on a pattern then popular in those clans' home areas.



Close-up of Grenadiers on a river boat, showing helmet details and cockade; the leather chinstrap was usually looped over the brim at the front. Note quilted spine-pads in foreground, with buttoned loop at the base for fastening over the waist-belt. The attachment buttons at top and bottom of the spine-pad are not visible here. (National Army Museum)

Below left:

Rear view of Cameron (left, with sporran pushed round to the rear) and Seaforth Highlanders burying the dead, in shirtsleeve order. The white lines in the Seaforth kilt can be seen, as well as their helmet flashes, and lighter-coloured hose than the Cameron. The yellow lines in the Cameron kilt are not visible since, as always, that colour photographed black on the film of this early period. Note length of kilts, and side fastening buckles. The Cameron has removed his spats. (National Army Museum)

Below:

Reserve companies of 1st Grenadier Guards behind the firing line at Omdurman. The 2nd Bde. formed the left of Kitchener's line, deployed, from left to right: Rifle Brigade, Lancashire and Northumberland Fusiliers, Grenadiers. Beyond, the 1st Bde.: Warwicks, Camerons, Seaforth and Lincolns. Each battalion had six companies in line in double rank behind a zareba, and two in reserve. All companies had bayonets fixed. Each company was commanded by a captain, and was divided into two half-companies under subalterns, each sub-divided into two sections under sergeants. Field officers were mounted. (National Army Museum)



The white Foreign Service helmet with puggaree; and front, inside, and right rear views of the same with its khaki cover fitted by means of a draw-string. Note the ventilator at the apex, covered by its dome fitted outside the cover; and the adjustable chinstrap, fitted inside the helmet. The outline of the puggaree can be made out under the cover; the tapes for the neck-curtain were fastened at its base. (National Army Museum; and Shepherd Paine)



Right:

Soldier's boots. The steel heel plate can be seen; the sole was also furnished with steel tips, a row of 20 studs along each outer edge, and three single rows of eight in between: 64 studs per boot. Puttees covered the boot down to the second or third eyelet. Highlanders' spats reached well down over the heel, and to within about two inches of the toe, fastened by a strap under the instep and eight outside buttons, the lowest in line with the forward edge of the heel-plate. (National Army Museum)

fish-tails for the Camerons, in a single end arranged in a double loop over a fringe for the Seaforth. Finally, to prevent stones and sand getting into the boot, khaki spats were fastened overall by means of a strap under the instep and eight outside buttons; each spat rose to a point behind the calf, and extended well forward above the instep to cover the lace-holes.

HELMETS

The Foreign Service helmet was worn for all occasions in hot climates. Made of cork, it was covered with white cloth in six seams, bound with leather round the bottom, and had a 1-in. whitened buff leather band passing around the skull; a ventilator was set in the apex. For ceremonial purposes a brass spike on a dome base and a brass chinchain were fitted; but on all other occasions they were replaced with a white-covered zinc button and brown leather chinstrap. Around the helmet was arranged the puggaree, a length of white cloth set in folds, to give added protection. (In the Northumberland Fusiliers the top fold was red which, where it came

to a point in front, gave the effect of a Roman numeral V, the regiment's original number.)

In the Sudan each helmet was fitted with a khaki drill cover, stitched in six sections; and, as additional protection, neck curtains were issued, tied on with narrow tapes at the front. Photographs of Omdurman suggest that the Royal Warwicks and Lincolns had quilted curtains, of paler material than the helmet covers, whereas those of the 2nd Bde. were of plain khaki drill. The acclimatised 1st Bde. seem to have been less keen on curtains, as neither Highland battalion wore them, and many Warwicks furled theirs up into a roll at the back of the helmet.

To assist identification in a division where most men were dressed similarly, each battalion wore a distinguishing helmet flash: these are illustrated on p. 12.

INSIGNIA

Rank badges of warrant and non-commissioned officers at this date were in gold embroidery or lace down to sergeants, in white worsted lace below (including lance-ser-

geants), all on red cloth. Rifles NCOs had black badges with gold edging. The crossed Union flags worn between crown and chevrons by Line colour-sergeants were omitted on khaki drill frocks, as were this rank's distinguishing marks peculiar to the Rifle Brigade. However, some battalions (e.g. the Seaforth) had all rank badges for wear on khaki drill in red on white backing. (See p. 13 for examples of both types.) The Grenadiers' sergeant-major wore the Royal Arms instead of a crown; and a grenade featured above the chevrons of their NCOs down to sergeant. A photograph of Drill-Sgt. Turnbull (ranking as a colour-sergeant) shows him with a crown, crossed swords, grenade and three-bar chevron, but with the Guards' customary Colour badge omitted from the chevrons. Line drummers wore a white worsted drum, and Rifle Brigade buglers a black double bugle-horn, on the upper right arm.

All rank badges were worn on the right arm only, and were pinned rather than sewn, for easy removal when washing the frock.

plain black leather top badged with St. Andrew and his Cross within a thistle wreath and a scroll inscribed with 'CAMERON'.

Highland regiments were normally issued with shoes, but on active service these were replaced with boots. Over the Highlander's issue socks went his hose — knitted woollen footless stockings. These were red and white — the original colouring for all Highland regiments — for the Seaforth; the Camerons wore red and green, introduced in 1843 to incorporate the 79th's then-green facings. The hose was turned over at the top, and suspended by red garters, their ends exposed: in two

EQUIPMENT

The infantryman's equipment was of the Slade-Wallace pattern, first introduced in 1888 and slightly modified subsequently. Its main components were of buff leather with brass fittings (black leather for the Rifle Brigade). In sum, the equipment consisted of the following:

Waistbelt, made in three parts, fitted with three brass buckles on the back section, two brass Ds on the belt runners, and a brass clasp. *Bayonet frog*. Two 50-round *pouches*, each with tubes for ten rounds and partitions for two 20-round packets; loops at the back for the belt, and two brass Ds for attachment to the braces, though the top one was seldom used. A pair of *braces*, each of two sections, two connecting brass double buckles, brass Ds on the longest sections, two 3½-in. leather billets with brass buckles for connecting the braces to the outside back waistbelt buckles, and a runner. *Valise* of japanned black canvas (black leather from 1895) with two shoulder straps. *Mess-tin* with black oilskin cover, and connecting strap. Felt-covered enamelled *water bottle*, roughly oval-shaped, with adjustable sling. White canvas *haversack* with sling, also adjustable, fastened with a brass button (all black for Rifles).¹

Valises were always transported for the men when on colonial campaign, and photographs of the 2nd Bde. battalions proceeding to the front show them with an otherwise complete equipment, including the greatcoat rolled and attached to the back of the belt by means of the long brace straps; an extra haversack; and a tin mug secured to the water bottle sling. For the battle itself, however, each infantryman had only his waistbelt; pouches; bayonet frog; braces (the unused rear ends being rolled); mess-tin without its cover, secured by its strap through the centre rear belt buckle and/or braces runner; haversack; water bottle; and mug. This assembly can be seen on pp. 12-13.

According to Cpl. Lawrie of the Seaforth, each man carried 100 rounds in his pouches and a further packet of 20 in his haversack, which also contained his towel, washing kit and spare socks. Also in the haversack would have been the sealed emergency ration of meat and biscuit — unless this was in the mess-tin; and, probably, the red-bound Prayer Book engraved 'Nile Expedition 1898' issued to all ranks by the Rev. A. W. B. Watson, Church of England Chaplain to the Force. (One of the Lincolns found a bullet lodged in his during the battle.) Normally

the day's ordinary rations were also carried, but it would seem that these were centralised and carried on camels, though this may have varied between battalions. The regulation position for the haversack was resting on the left hip outside the bayonet, but photographs show that many men preferred to carry them on their backs, with the sling usually 'hooked' under the pouches: see p. 13. A field dressing was sewn inside the frock.

Pictorial evidence also shows that whereas the 1st Bde. had the oval water bottle, the 2nd Bde. had the more recent, oblong-shaped design of aluminium. This was 5¼ in. high and 7¼ in. long; the sling passed through four loops sewn to the covering felt. Other equipment differences were the pouches of the earlier, 1882 equipment worn by the Royal Irish Fusiliers detachment; and the most recently modified (1894) pouches, which opened outwards instead of upwards, issued to the Lancashire Fusiliers. In all, the reduced equipment carried at Omdurman weighed only a little more than 20 lb., compared with the 41 lb. of full marching order.

continued on p. 14



Soldier's kidney-shaped mess-tin used for the carriage, cooking and eating of rations. It consisted of a lid, a pan with folding handle inside it, and the main container with carrying handle. Below the turned rims is the metal loop through which the strap passed to be attached to the rear central waistbelt buckle and/or the braces runner. Above is the black cover issued with it, but which many soldiers did not bother to use in the field. (National Army Museum)

Below:

1st Royal Warwick resting between attacks at Omdurman; the zareba of thorn bushes is in the background, and empty ammunition packets litter the ground. Most men carry their haversacks on their backs, and have their neck-curtains rolled up. The walking soldier has a yoke-type carrier used for distributing ammunition; in its rear cut-out can be seen his mess-tin suspended from his braces runner rather than his waistbelt. His puttees are noticeably lighter than those of the man to his left. Both men display the battalion's red helmet flashes. (Navy and Army Illustrated)



Except for minor regimental differences, and the Rifle Brigade's black leather equipment, the central figures are typical of the 2nd Bde. battalions and of the 1st Bde.'s English battalions — though the latter had different helmet curtains (see F and G) and water bottles (see p. 13). The haversack and water bottle are slung according to regulations, but in action the method varied to individual taste. Valises, greatcoats and kit bags were transported on the Nile river boats; blankets, supplies, additional water and reserve ammunition on camels under brigade arrangements. Immediately to hand were each battalion's six ammunition mules, carrying 20 rounds per man for instant re-supply to the firing line. Though buff leather equipment was normally pipe-clayed, this practice was dispensed with on active service. Note tin mugs, and spine pads, issued to all soldiers (B); and the long, loose Rifle Brigade sling.

(A) Private, 1st Bn., Grenadier Guards.

(B) Sergeant, 2nd Bn., Rifle Brigade.

(C) Grenadier Guards' button.

(D) Universal Line pattern button.

(E) Rifle Brigade button.

Helmets, 1st Brigade:

(F) Royal Warwickshire Regiment; red, as a Royal regiment; officers wore an added white 'VT', referring to the old number, 6th Foot.

(G) Lincolnshire Regiment; white, to match tunic facings.

(H) Seaforth Highlanders — 'Resplendent with tartan, badge and white hackle' (Cpl. Laurie); the badge was as described for the sporrans; pipers' hackles were green. This unit alone wore flashes on left side only.

(I) Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders; blue, to match tunic facings.

Helmets, 2nd Brigade:

(J) Grenadier Guards; cockade in the Guards colours.

(K) Northumberland Fusiliers; the red line simulates the top fold of their puggaree.

(L) Lancashire Fusiliers; the yellow matched the facings of the old 20th Foot.

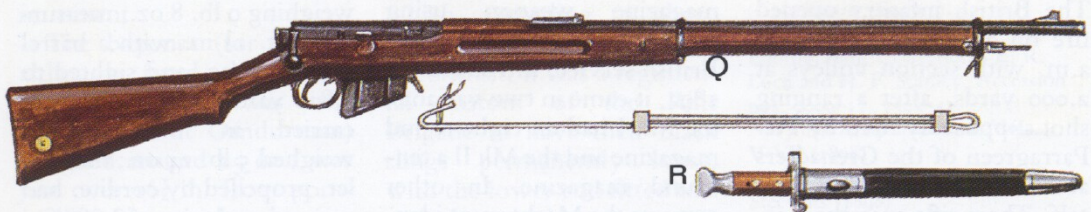
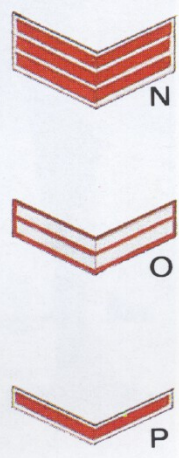
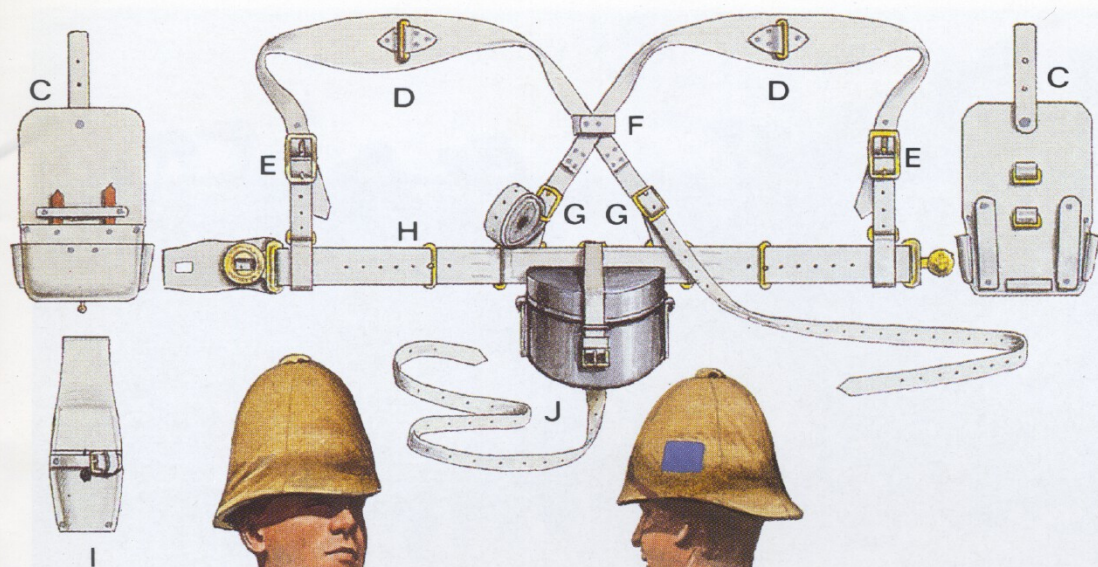
(M) Rifle Brigade; flash in Rifle green.

The Maxim gunners of the Royal Irish Fusiliers wore rectangular flashes of green, their national colour and the onetime facings of the old 87th Foot.

Belt clasps:

(N) Grenadier Guards. (O) Universal Line pattern. (P) Rifle Brigade.





The central figures are representative of the 1st Bde.'s two Highland battalions (which largely dispensed with helmet curtains). Regimental differences are detailed in the main text. Note that the 1st Seaforth wore the flash on the left side of the helmet only, while other battalions wore them on both sides. Both men carry their haversacks on their backs with the slings 'hooked' under the pouches; others made two loops of the sling for the arms to pass through. Several men of this battalion wore the Indian General Service ribbon, acquired when serving with the regiment's 2nd Bn. in the Chitral Expedition of 1895. Note the difference between the water bottle shown here, used by all 1st Bde. units, and that issued to the 2nd Bde., shown opposite.

(A) Corporal, 1st Bn., Seaforth Highlanders.

(B) Private, 1st Bn., Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Slade-Wallace equipment as worn at Omdurman:

(C) Pouches, front and back.

(D) Braces, in two sections, with Ds for valise straps.

(E) Connecting double buckles.

(F) Runner.

(G) Billet and buckle for attaching braces to rear belt buckles.

(H) Waistbelt.

(I) Bayonet frog.

(J) Mess-tin with strap for attachment to rear centre belt buckle and/or runner.

NCOs' rank badges, home and foreign service patterns:

(K) Sergeant-major

(L) Quartermaster-sergeant.

(M) Colour-sergeant.

(N) Sergeant.

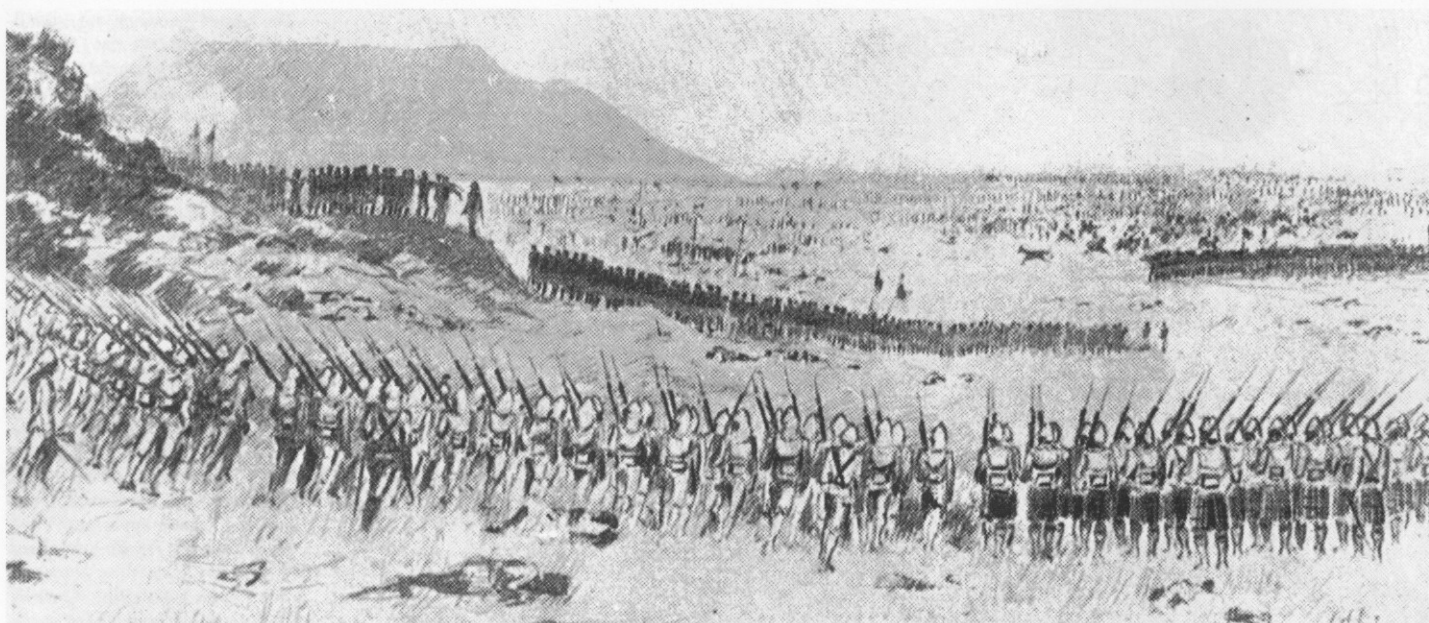
(O) Corporal.

(P) Lance-corporal (not Guards).

Weapons:

(Q) .303 in. Lee-Enfield rifle and sling.

(R) Bayonet with scabbard.



Drawing by Cpl. Farquharson, 1st Seaforth, of the advance of the 1st Bde. to support Macdonald's Sudanese (far right) against the last Dervish attacks, showing the brigade's left half — Royal Warwicks and Camerons. The companies are in line, with rifles sloped, bayonets fixed, the two half-company subalterns behind the rear rank. Farquharson has accurately recorded the Warwicks' neck-curtains, and the haversacks worn on the back above the mess-tins. Between the advancing line and the Sudanese can be seen Maxwell's Sudanese and Lewis's Egyptian brigades in action against the right flank of the Dervish attack. (National Army Museum)

Right:

(Left to right) Lts. Morrison, Gurdon-Rebow, and Corkran, and Capt. Cavendish, all of the Grenadiers. Officers of this battalion wore regimental-pattern frocks: these had six front buttons above the belt, two buttons on each cuff, unpleated breast pockets, and large patch pockets on the skirts with flaps but no buttons; they also wore grenade collar badges. Officers wore rank badges which differed from modern practice in that captains wore two stars, lieutenants one, and second lieutenants none. The two subalterns in the front wear pantaloons with puttees; Cavendish wears trousers with Stohwasser gaiters — of brown leather, these opened down the front, being secured by two buckles and a spiral strap. All wear Sam Browne equipment with double braces, haversack, water bottle, revolver and sword, and Morrison has a binocular case slung to hang alongside his holster. Guards and Rifles officers' swords had steel, three-bar guards (1822 pattern); Line officers had the same in brass, or 1895 pattern three-quarter basket guards in sheet steel. All had straight 32½ in. blades, and brown leather scabbards with steel chapes. (National Army Museum)



WEAPONS

The British infantry opened fire on 2 September at 6.35 a.m. with section volleys at 2,000 yards, after a ranging shot supposedly fired by Pte. Parragreen of the Grenadiers at the order of Kitchener himself. Their rifle was the Lee-

Metford, the first bolt-action magazine weapon using smokeless powder in the British service. Introduced in 1892, it came in two variants: the Mk I had an eight-round magazine and the Mk II a ten-round magazine. In other respects the Marks were iden-

tical, of .303 in. calibre, weighing 9 lb. 8 oz., measuring 4 ft. 1½ in. with a barrel 30⅞ in. long, and sighted to 2,800 yards. The 100 rounds carried in the pouches weighed 5 lb. 14 oz.; the bullet, propelled by cordite, had a muzzle velocity of 2,000 ft./



Above:

Rear view of Grenadiers (left), officers (centre) and Camerons (right), cheering the receipt of the Queen's telegram after the battle. Again, note that the Camerons have their haversacks slung over their equipment, and have no neck-curtains. The spine-pad of the officer at left centre, with his hand behind his back, just shows the light-coloured fastening buttons at collar and waist. Note, incidentally, the very short haircuts. (National Army Museum)



Left:

Grenadier Guards in Khartoum after the battle. On the left-hand officer we see the Sam Browne braces crossing at the rear, his sword scabbard, haversack, revolver ammunition pouch, and holster on the right above the water bottle, which is round and of a different pattern to the Guardsmen's oblong type. Note the difference in cut between the officers' pantaloons and the trousers of the soldier at the left. The right-hand officer wears Stohwasser gaiters, the left-hand one puttees. (National Army Museum)

sec., increased from the 1,800 ft./sec. achieved with black powder by encasing its lead composition in a harder metal. However, Cpl. Lawrie recorded that the bullet points were filed down until the lead appeared, so that 'the bullet will "set up" on striking' — i.e., have greater stopping power on a charging fanatic.

To conserve ammunition the magazine was fitted with a cut-off so that the rifle could still be loaded with single rounds (as with the Martini-Henry), the magazine being regarded as a reserve for emergency or rapid fire. With the cut-off applied a man could get off 12 rounds per minute; using the magazine, one round every $2\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Such was its effectiveness that few Dervishes got nearer than 800 yards of the British infantry, whereas they came to within about 300 yards of the Egyptian/Sudanese units armed with the single-shot Martini. Later, the arrival in the nick of time of the Lincolns, and their rapid fire on the flank of Macdonald's hard-pressed Sudanese, prevented the hand-to-hand fighting which, moments before, had seemed imminent.

The bayonet (for which, although fixed throughout the action, there was little requirement at Omdurman) weighed around 15 oz., was just over 16½ in. from pomel to tip, with a 12-in.,

double-edged sword blade and a central rib along its length. The pommel, housing the spring catch, and the crosspiece were of browned steel, and the grip of walnut secured by two brass rivets. The scabbard was of black leather with steel mountings.

The rifle had sling swivels below the muzzle and just forward of the magazine to take the buff leather sling which, according to photographs, was seldom loosened. In contrast, it was a regimental custom of the Rifle Brigade to have their black slings permanently loose, with the lower end fitted to a swivel on the butt. **MI**

Acknowledgements:

The author gratefully acknowledges the help given by Cap. D.D. Horn, Grenadier Guards, and Lt.Col. A. A. Fairrie, Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons).

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Argentine Army Commandos in the Falklands, 1982

EDUARDO CARBRAL
Artwork by PAUL HANNON

By mid-April 1982 it had been decided, in consultations between Maj.Gen. O. J. Garcia (commanding Theatre of Operations Malvinas), Brig.Gen. M. B. Menendez (Military Governor Malvinas) and GHQ Buenos Aires that Army Special Forces were required on the islands. Consequently, the Army-level 601 Special Forces Group was ordered to form an Army Commando unit. In the event, two units would be committed. On 24 April a small advance team from 601 Cdo. Coy. flew into the Malvinas to determine the viability of operations; 52 days later their entire unit passed into captivity. On 26 May, five days after the British landings at San Carlos, 602 Cdo. Coy. commenced their fly-in; 19 days later the survivors were made prisoner. This article sets out to describe briefly — and within the inevitable limitations governing accounts of special forces — these two units and their operations on the islands.

Each of the Argentine Armed forces has its own Special Forces component, the Army's being 601 SF Group, directly subordinate to GHQ Buenos Aires (all '601' designations indicated Army-level commands). Selection is from individual volunteers, or men 'talent-spotted' during conscript basic and trade training. Fitness, swimming, IQ, and military understanding are tested over three days; successful candidates proceed to a three-month course at the Commando wing of the School of Infantry, Campo de Mayo, BA. This comprehensive and demanding course covers parachuting, close-quarter battle, watercraft, fieldcraft and urban combat, counter-insurgency, and jungle, mountain and desert techniques. Awarded the

prestigious green beret, Commandos are then posted either to the regular cadre of 601 SF Gp. — 'HALCON 8' — usually for a two-year tour; or returned to unit, remaining liable for recall at need. (602 Cdo. Coy., for instance, included not only recalled infantrymen but gunners, medics, and armoured personnel. Most had completed their Commando course anything up to ten years previously.) This system of selection, standard in most Latin American armies, has the drawback that recalled personnel may be 'rusty', or possess out-of-date skills.

By 24 April 1982 *Compania de Comando 601* had been assembled at Palomar Barracks, BA, from regular 'HALCON 8' cadres and recalled Commando-trained personnel. While refresher courses were held, a four-man recce team flew from Comodoro Rivadavia to

Stanley, instructed by GHQ to determine the viability of operations on the Malvinas. Their task was seen as carrying out reconnaissance, ambushes, fighting patrols and search-and-rescue; missions would be inserted by Air Force or Army helicopters, Coastguard patrol vessels, locally available vehicles, or on foot. The team liaised with the Air Force's GOE — a special unit tasked with securing DZs and preparing airdrop missions; with 25th Inf. Regt., defending the airport; with Brig.Gen. O. L. Joffre, OC 10th Mot. Inf. Bde. at Moody Brook; and with Brig.Gen. Menendez.

Menendez already had at his disposal a trained heliborne force — A Coy., 1st Inf. Regt., a crack unit which carried out Presidential bodyguard tasks; on the islands it was attached to 6th Mech. Inf. Regt., which had the responsibility of providing an infantry company to the Reserve helicopter grouping. 601 Cdo. Coy., with the ability to deploy anywhere on the islands, was therefore planned for use as a 'quick reaction force', subordinate to relevant formations when operating in different tactical areas. (This differs from British practice, under which Special Forces have sometimes suffered 'blue on blue' contacts through operating in Tactical Areas of Operational Responsibility without reference to formations.)

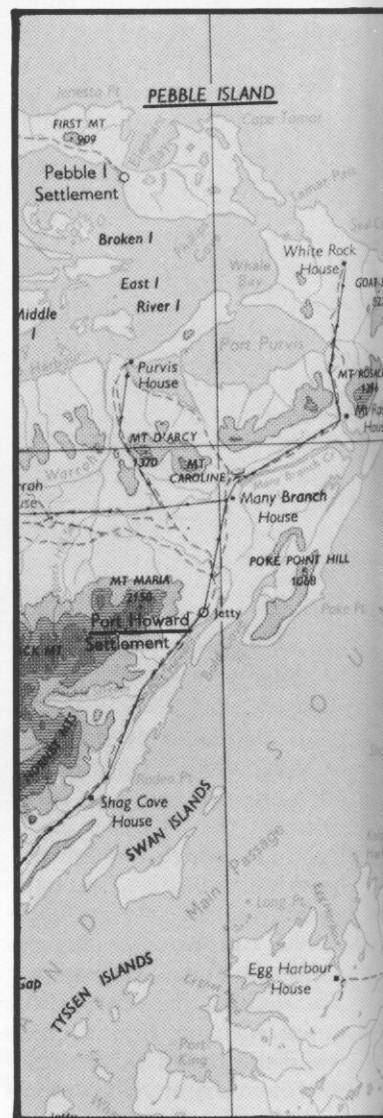
After further visits to units, it was determined that 601 Cdo. Coy. would come under operational command of Army Gp. Malvinas, but administratively under Army Gp. Malvinas Reserves.

601 COMPANY DEPLOYS

On 26 April, while the bulk of 601 Cdo. Coy. were flown to Stanley, the recce team made an extensive helicopter survey of East Falkland; they noted the difficult terrain, and the potential tactical importance of the Mt. Osborne and Mt. Simon ranges, lying parallel roughly east to west between Stanley and Falkland Sound. The company landed,

drew stores, and were assigned an HQ in the Town Hall and accommodation in the adjacent gymnasium.

The company, commanded by a major, was far below the strength suggested by its title, comprising an HQ and support element and just three sections of 15 men each. Personal weapons, depending upon the individual rôle, were the Argentine 7.62mm FAL 50.00 rifle; the FAL 50.61 or 50.63 (short) rifle with folding butt;¹ the FAL 50.41, with bipod; the 9mm PA3 sub-machine gun (some, at least, with laser sights); the .45 Ballester Molina automatic pistol, based on the Colt 1911; and US M67, Spanish M5 or Argentine GME FMk2 MO grenades. On patrols of two or more days the following support weapons were usually carried: the Belgian FN/MAG 7.62mm GPMG, the Spanish



¹ Some individuals had rifles fitted with various IWS including the American AN/PVS 4 second-generation Starlight scope.

Installaza 88.9mm M65 anti-tank rocket launcher; the French Brandt 60mm light mortar; and — from early May 1982 — the British Shorts Blowpipe anti-aircraft guided missile system.

The next few days were spent in 'shaking down', and in uneventful searches and vehicle check points in Stanley. Some Kawasaki 125cc motorcycles were flown in for the Commandos' use; handy for movement around the town, they were of limited tactical value outside Stanley.

For reasons of space, the subsequent operations carried out by the Commandos must be summarised largely in note form:

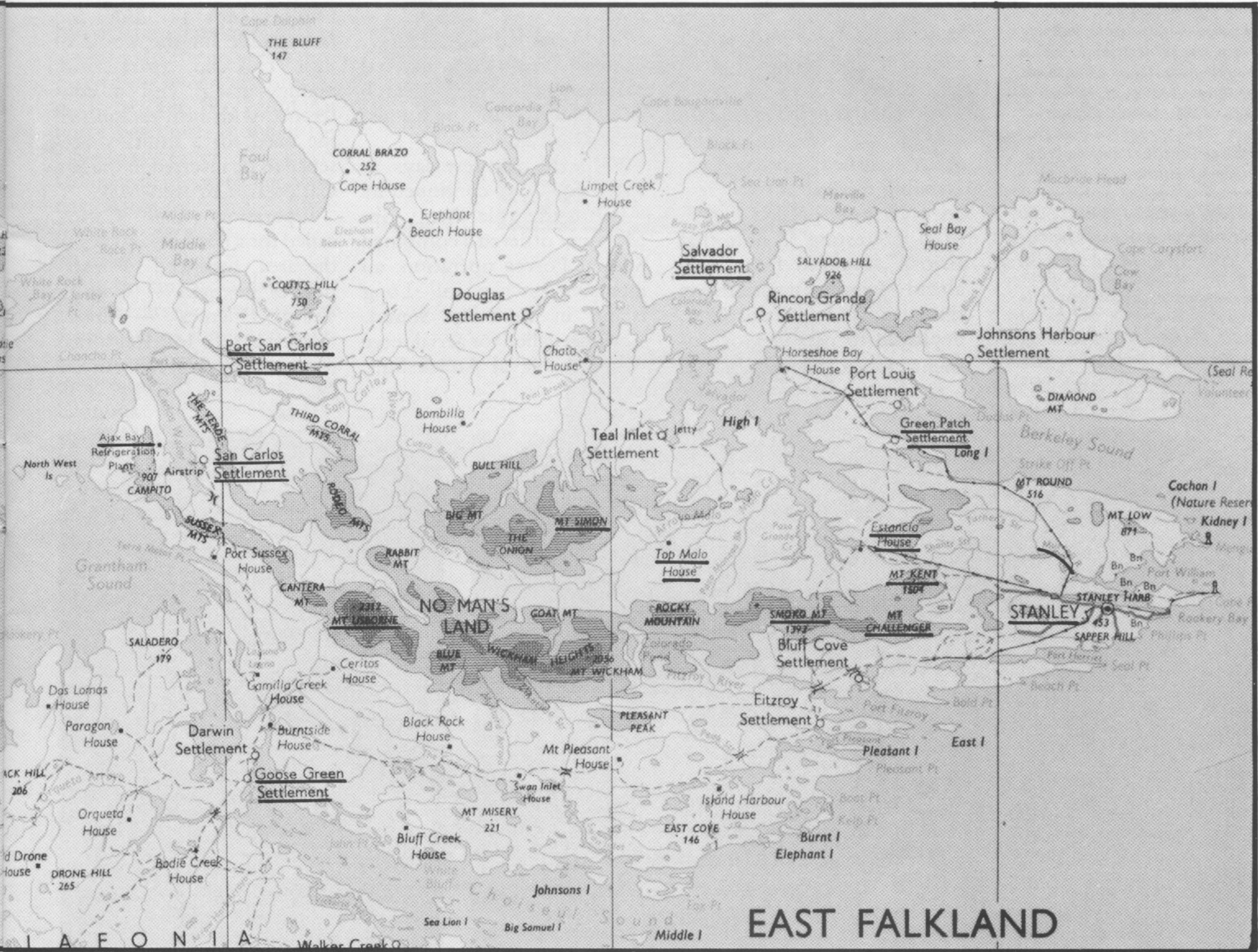
30 April

1 Section (hereafter, '1/601') heli-lifted to cordon and search almost deserted Estancia House; some 7.62mm ammo and rations found.



Argentine Army Commando photographed shortly before the Falklands War. He wears the two-piece camouflaged combat fatigues, in the pattern closely resembling US 'woodland' camouflage, over a similarly camouflaged shirt, over the quilted nylon 'poloneck' shown in an accompanying photograph. The enlisted man's parachutist's brevet in pale blue and white on a strip of drab green cloth can be seen sewn to his left breast; this is awarded after four jumps. The weapon here is the silenced Sterling SMG, used in the Falklands by Navy Special Forces but not, apparently, by 601 or 602 Commando Companies.

2/601 heli-lifted to Pebble Island — garrisoned by H Coy., 3rd Mnc. Inf. Bn. — after report of illegal radio operating: nothing found. In evening, report of enemy landing in airport area of Stanley; remainder 601 Cdo. Coy. deployed in support 25th Inf. Regt.; still at airport when RAF Vulcan bomber attacked at dawn next day.

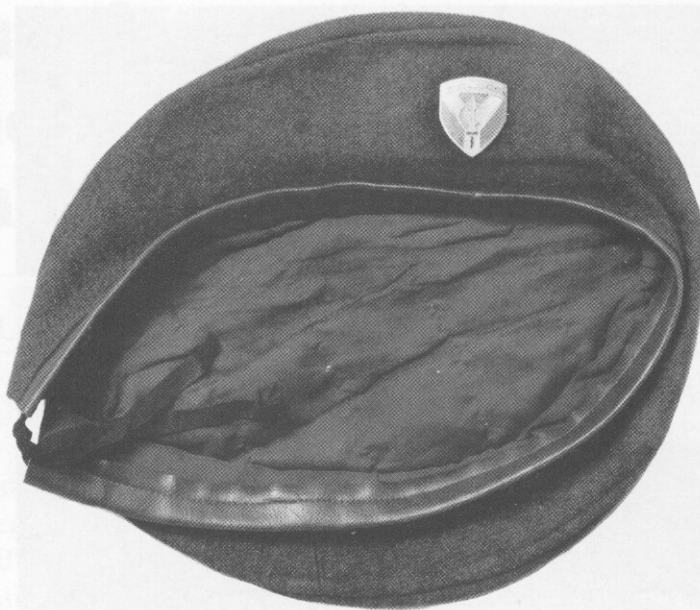


Beret of the Argentine Army Comandos. Made in two pieces, it has a crown seam, and a vertical seam on the band at centre rear. The colour is hard to determine exactly, since it is made of a coarse woollen mix of light and dark greens; at a distance it approximates Methuen 26 E7. The lining is of polished cotton cloth sewn in a pattern of roughly 40mm squares, and coloured dark grey-green, roughly Methuen 26 E4. The tubular leather rim encloses a black tightening ribbon, the two ends of which are usually allowed to hang free at centre rear; the rim is yellowish green, Methuen 30 F8. The beret is unmarked apart from the inked name of the previous owner: 'Cap. Negretti/Moncho', on the lining of the badge backing. This latter is a rectangle of clear plastic, approx. 70mm x 58mm, enclosed between the lining and the wool above the right eye, all three layers being pierced for the post of the badge.

The badge (see painting, p. 23) is an enamelled brass shield with an unmarked brass back mounting a central threaded post, engaged inside the beret with a hexagonal brass 6mm nut. The badge measures 26mm across by 31mm deep. (Photo, Michael Dyer Assoc.)

Below:

Combat vest worn by Argentine Army Comandos on an individual basis; another slightly differing pattern was photographed, with a tie-string front closure and grenade pockets at the top of each chest panel. This example is made of heavy dark grey-green material, with a darker olive lining quilted in a diamond pattern. On the right front are a compass pocket above two large munitions pockets, and a knife scabbard, with pencil pockets next to the zip fastener. On the left front are cartridge loops(?) above one munitions pocket, above a triple pistol magazine pouch, and a pistol holster. On the back are two large pouches, both inner and outer pouches having top flaps. There are velcro tightening tabs at the hips.



1 May

Elements at airport suffered Harrier strikes, naval gunfire. 2/601, still in interior (the 'camp'), searched Salvador; recovered radio used for illegal traffic with HMS *Hermes*; member of Pitaluga family arrested.

2 May

Weather worsening. 2/601 returned to Stanley. 3/601 embarked GC 82 *Las Malvinas*, coastal patrol to north.

3 May

3/601 returned, very seasick. Evening reports of imminent enemy assault in Stanley area (it is interesting to note that British advanced forces had already begun operations on the islands). 601 Cdo. Coy. deployed to defend Government House. False alarm.

4 May

Elements of 601 Cdo. Coy. ordered to assist 181 MP Coy. cordon warehouse where civilians suspected of resistance meeting: false alarm. 3/601 flown Tussoc Island, investigated report of light seen; nothing found.

5 May

3/601 returned to Stanley. Second fruitless coastal patrol, south. Fruitless search in Stanley for weapons, radios by 2/601.

Over the next few days, as 601 Cdo. Coy. continued its 'fire brigade' rôle, Army Gp. Malvinas ordered a combined Special Forces operation: an intensive sweep of Long Island in Berkeley Sound. The plan called for aerial recce by a 4th Naval Attack Sqn.

T-34C from Pebble Island; a landing by Marine Commandos from the sea, to secure an LS for 601 Cdo. Coy., heli-lifted in three UH-1Hs and two Agusta Arogs; and a combat air patrol by a Mirage from a mainland-based squadron.

Despite rapidly worsening weather, the preliminary stage was initiated: 3/601 were heli-lifted to sweep the north shore of Berkeley Sound, finding at Green Patch some equipment from HMS *Endurance*, long abandoned. Foul weather caused the cancellation of the main operation, however. Elements of 601 Cdo. Coy. then searched Scalion and Bougainville Islands unsuccessfully for reported crashed aircraft. The company then rested in Stanley for three days, and trained on Blowpipe and laser-sight PA3s, recently arrived. 601 now came under operational control of Brig.Gen. A. Daher, OC 9th Mot. Inf. Bde. and responsible for the whole of East Falkland apart from Stanley itself; and a conference with him established the need for a military presence to be inserted in the San Carlos area by mid-May.

Operation 'San Carlos' called for a 601 Coy. sweep of the area, followed by insertion of 60 men — Combat Team 'Guemes' — drawn from the 12th Inf. Regt. task force at Goose Green. An OP



was to be established at Fanning Head, covering Falkland Sound and San Carlos Water.

(At about this time 601 SF Gp. were warned by GHQ BA to form a second Commando unit, and the trawl for qualified personnel began.)

13 May

Op. 'San Carlos' began. 2/601 and 3/601 (including Blowpipe team) heli-lifted in six machines to San Carlos. Searching San Carlos, Port San Carlos and Ajax Bay, 2/601 found signs of British activity; then established themselves in shearing shed at San Carlos. 3/601 established Fanning Head OP. Weather worsened, with icy rain.

14 May

CT 'Guemes' arrived Port San Carlos by CH-47C Chinook. Commando sections warned to stand by for heli-lift for another task.

15 May

Both sections flown by Chinook to Pebble Island where, the previous night, raid by D Sqn., 22 SAS Regt. had destroyed or damaged 11 aircraft. Even before Commandos could disembark, panic-stricken Navy and Air Force personnel mobbed the Chinook, eager to leave. Contact made with nervous, trigger-happy 3rd. Mne. Inf. Bn. garrison.

16 May

Only on this next day did a UH-1H arrive, enabling the Commandos to make a fruitless island-wide patrol. Later they returned to Stanley by Chinook.

17-18 May

Rest and recuperation, while enemy naval and air activity increased.

19 May

1/601 and 2/601 deployed by helicopter to West Falkland, to support 5th Inf. Regt. at Port Howard. Forced down overnight by foul weather, they finally arrived on 20 May.

20 May

Contact with 5th Inf. Regt.; with 8th Inf. Regt. at Fox Bay, this unit had almost independent rôle on thinly-populated West Falkland; they lacked artillery and air defences. Commandos heli-lifted to Purvis and White



The shirt in camouflage material was widely worn under the other combat clothing. It is in the same pattern as the combat fatigues, resembling US 'woodland' camouflage. Camouflage colours are notoriously hard to specify exactly; in this case they approximate Methuen 3D4 (khaki drab), 6F5 (chocolate brown), and 26F6 (rich dark green), with black, and a khaki drab lining. There are six green plastic front buttons, two buttoned pockets, tabs with two alternative buttons at the cuffs, and no shoulder straps. (Photo, Michael Dyer Assocs.)

Centre:

The US-issue 'Liner, Coat, Man's, Field, M-65', which was widely used by the Argentine Army. It is in a very pale pea-green quilted nylon, with olive green nylon edging. (Photo, Michael Dyer Assocs.)



Below:

The 'polo neck' is in light pea-green nylon, with a darker ribbed neck, and is lined with white quilted nylon. This example bears the black stamp 'EJERCITO ARGENTINO/ O/C/LINO-0003/ MONSIL S.R.L./ TAMAÑO: CHICO'. The gloves are in a light, almost apple-green brushed twill lined with tan wool, with a tin buckle and a cloth fastening strap with two green plastic buttons. (Photo, Michael Dyer Assocs.)



Geese settlements. On East Falkland, 3/601 patrolled Mt. Low area without result.

THE BRITISH LANDINGS

21 May

On this significant day, British 3rd Commando Brigade landed at San Carlos, Ajax Bay and Port San Carlos, opposed only briefly, though with spirit, by CT 'Guemes'. Heavy air/sea battles raged, and the enemy also mounted diversionary attacks elsewhere. At Goose Green 12th Inf. Regt., raided by elements of D Sqn., 22 SAS Regt., reported itself under a battalion attack. British Harriers destroyed Argentine helicopters in the 'Z' Reserve area near Mt. Kent. Army Gp. Malvinas remained convinced that San Carlos was a diversion from an imminent main landing at Stanley.

Isolated on West Falkland and powerless to react, the

Commandos activated forward OPs. A Harrier flown by Flt.Lt. J. Glover RAF was shot down on its second pass over Port Howard; he was rescued from the sea, and later evacuated. (The 601 Coy. Blowpipe team claimed the kill; as did most of the 5th Inf. Regiment.) Glover's SARBE beacon was activated; a Sea King lured to the area was fired upon, but veered away undamaged.

In Stanley, HQ 601 Cdo. Coy. presented a plan to establish OPs on Mts. Simon and Usborne to Brig.Gen. O. Parada, OC 3rd Mech. Inf. Bde.; it was considered that this was not viable without the two Commando sections from West Falkland, however. 601 were provisionally assigned Mt. Simon; and efforts continued in vain to recover the two sections. (This, despite the fact that downed Air Force pilots who had reached Port Howard had been successfully picked up by a UH-1H which had evaded the prowling British fighters.)

Meanwhile, on the mainland, the newly-formed 602 Cdo. Coy. was embarking on a four-day crash course of refresher training and equipping. The neutralisation of the more experienced unit made their deployment the more urgent. Men were thus assembled into a unit with great haste, not knowing one another or their officers, and with no time to 'shake down' properly.

23 May

Another attempt to recover stranded sections from West Falkland by four helicopters was 'bounced' by Harriers near Shag Cove. One Puma survived, reaching Port Howard with the other crews.

The gravity of the situation led to the implementation of the Mts. Simon/Usborne operation without further delay. Prevented by cloud from placing an OP on Mt. Simon, the rump of 601 Coy. did establish a patrol base at Top Malo House. That evening a Chinook from Goose Green brought Flt.Lt. Glover to Stanley; yet still the two

Argentine LBE, the belt and yoke in a fairly bright, almost lime-green nylon webbing, the latter in a herringbone weave. Apart from the brass belt grommets all metal fittings are dull iron, prone to rust. Each of the four branches of the yoke is doubled, adjusted by khaki elasticated bands. Dark OD 'cushions', sewn to the yoke at top rear, protect the shoulder from the black plastic rear spreader, which is marked 'TEMPEX/INDUSTRIA ARGENTINA'. In front of each shoulder are broad attachment bands with velcro fasteners; here, one holds a khaki first field dressing whose white printed label bears two red crosses and the black legend 'EJERCITO ARGENTINO/SANIDAD/Contiene una curación individual/ESTERILIZADA' all in a black border. The holster and pouch, like the rifle ammunition pouches for this set, are in dark OD nylon with lighter green web fasteners; each has a heavy black plastic belt clip on the rear face. (Photo, Michael Dyer Assoc.)



Commando sections remained stranded at Port Howard.

24 May

At Palomar Barracks, BA, 602 Cdo. Coy. received orders to move to the Malvinas. On the islands the Special Forces operation to place OPs in the Mts. Simon/Usborne areas continued,

involving the 601 Cdo. Coy rump from Stanley, the Air Force's GOE special unit, and Marine Commandos.

25 May

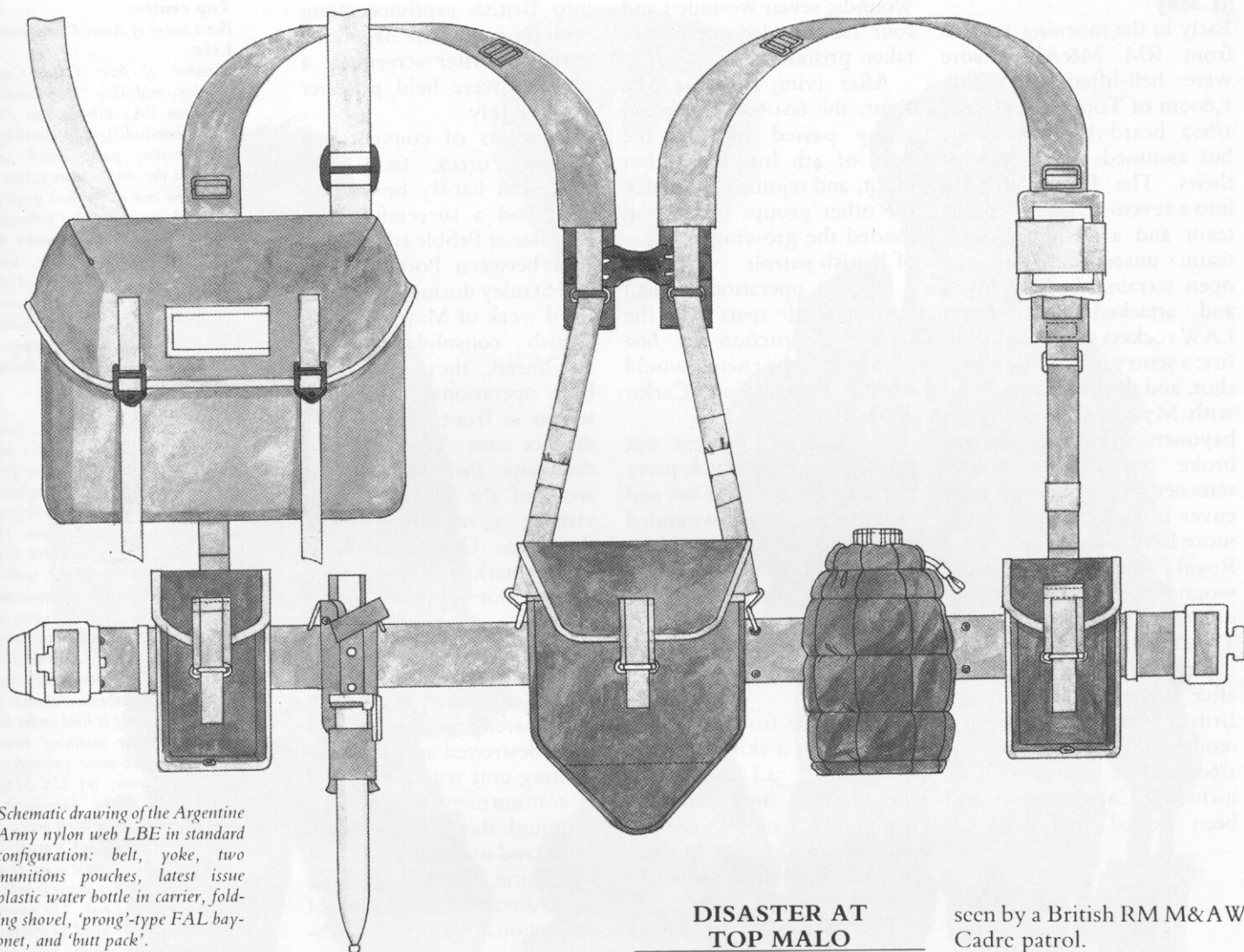
The operation was now well under way, although the 'going' was so hard that one patrol made only 2,500m in a night. Despite snow and falling temperatures, most

patrols established their OPs. Late that day 1/ and 2/601 were finally recovered and flown to Stanley. In the evening a GOE patrol in the Mt. Simon area reported contact with a 601 Coy. patrol, but no contact with the Marine Commandos around Mt. Usborne. (There were no contacts with the enemy, although by this time British advanced forces — SAS, SBS, and Royal Marine Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre — had deep penetration patrols well forward.)

26 May

602 Cdo. Coy. flew in to Stanley. Commanded by Maj. Rico, they were only strong enough to field an HQ and two (later three) sections. Morale was low; the hastily-assembled men, mostly in their late twenties with senior NCOs in their thirties, considered their *ad hoc* unit a 'forlorn hope'.

Army Gp. Malvinas now formed all Special Forces into



Schematic drawing of the Argentine Army nylon web LBE in standard configuration: belt, yoke, two munitions pouches, latest issue plastic water bottle in carrier, folding shovel, 'prong'-type FAL bayonet, and 'butt pack'.

one grouping; and since the Mts. Simon/Usborne operation continued without undue incident, another operation was planned. OPs would be established by 601 Cdo. Coy. at Mt. Estancia; by GOE and Marine Commandos at Smoko Mt.; and by 602 Cdo. Coy. at Mt. Simon, and Bluff Cove Peak.

29 May

601 Cdo. Coy. successfully deployed an OP on Mt. Estancia; the escort patrol (under Capt. Figueroa) then moved south towards Mt. Challenger. 1/602 was tasked to heli-lift to Top Malo House, and then to establish an OP on Mt. Simon; 2/602, to establish an OP on Bluff Cove Peak; and HQ and 3/602 would deploy later in support of 2/602. Once the OPs became untenable the sections were to form 'stay-behind groups' to harass the enemy rear.

Early on the 29th 1/602 were heli-lifted to Top Malo

House, and began the seven-mile approach to Mt. Simon in a mood of dissension and disagreement. Later that day 2/602, in an Agusta A109 and a UH-1H, set off for Bluff Cove Peak. The helicopters became separated, only the Agusta landing anywhere near the LS. Failing in an attempt to link up with the other 'stick', the Agusta half-section (under Capt. Villarruel) moved toward Bluff Cove Peak; but was soon forced by mortar and MG fire from the east (probably from 7th Inf. Regt. on Mt. Longdon) to lie up on the moors. Further heavy firing was heard near by, and it was assumed that the lost half-section (under Capt. Duran and Fernandez) had made contact with the enemy.¹

Shortly before dark, 1/602 (Capt. Vercesi) reached Mt. Simon and lay up.

¹The UH-1H 'stick' probably strayed into an SAS defensive position, and were systematically destroyed as they tried to break out, only three men surviving the action.

DISASTER AT TOP MALO

30 May

A Puma helicopter loaded with Special Forces personnel crashed at Stanley with heavy casualties. Reports of ambushes and contacts with enemy advanced forces, and news of the disastrous loss of Goose Green to 2nd Bn., Parachute Regt. on 28/29 May, together with the British breakout from San Carlos, persuaded Army Gp. Malvinas that the Special Forces operation should be rescheduled. SF were ordered to concentrate their efforts nearer the Stanley defensive zone; all helicopter missions in support of SF were cancelled; and HQ and 3/602 were stranded in the town.

In misty weather on Mt. Simon 1/602, advised of the cancellation, prepared to exfiltrate. Heli-lift was prevented by the weather, and the 16-strong section marched to Top Malo House. Unknown to them, the recovery attempt had been

seen by a British RM M&AW Cadre patrol.

Near Bluff Cove Peak Capt. Villarruel's men of 2/602 learned from 4th Inf. Regt. elements heli-lifting from Mt. Kent that the outer defence zone was contracting. Later, this group combined with Capt. Figueroa's patrol from 601 Cdo. Coy., marching south from Mt. Estancia. 1/602 arrived at Top Malo House; after sweeping the area without result, they settled down for the night. Dissension increased when no stand-to was ordered and no sentries were put out. Snow began to fall.

The combined 601/602 patrol saw the insertion of K Coy., 42 Cdo. RM, two troops of 59 Indep. Cdo. Sqn. RE, and three 105mm guns of 7 Cdo. Bty. RA on to Mt. Kent to replace troops of D Sqn., 22 SAS Regt.; the Argentine Commandos took part in a brisk firefight with the SAS as night fell, but the British insertion was successful.

31 May

Early in the morning 19 men from RM M&AW Cadre were heli-lifted to within 1,000m of Top Malo House. 1/602 heard the helicopter, but assumed it was one of theirs. The British divided into a seven-man fire support team and a 12-man assault team; unseen, despite the open terrain, they deployed and attacked. Six 66mm LAW rockets set the house on fire; a sentry in a window was shot, and the British assaulted with M79s, M16s and fixed bayonets. The Argentinians broke out of the house, screened by smoke, and took cover in a stream bed. Two more LAWs were fired. Two Royal Marines fell badly wounded as a brisk close-quarter firefight developed. The ammunition in the house exploded. Thirty minutes after their first arrival, the British force accepted the surrender of the survivors of 1/602: five Argentinians, including Capt. Vercesi, had been killed or died of



Rear view of 'K-Way/Salik' nylon rainproof camouflaged jacket, worn on an individual basis by some members of 602 Cdo. Coy. at Top Malo House. There are zipped vertical pocket access slits in the side seams, and chest pocket access with a long covering flap at the same level as the bottom of the shoulder yoke reinforcement seen here. (Courtesy J.F. Borsarello)

Below:

Most Argentine Army camouflage clothing examined is without any markings apart from a simple size stamp inside the back of the neck; but some examples bear this label. (Courtesy J. F. Borsarello)



wounds; seven wounded and four unwounded men were taken prisoner.

After lying up near Mt. Kent, the 601/602 combined group passed through the lines of 4th Inf. Regt. that night, and rejoined in Stanley the other groups which had evaded the growing number of British patrols.

The operation had achieved little apart from the virtual destruction of 602 Cdo. Coy.; the enemy would advance from San Carlos unobserved.

601 Cdo. Coy. sent out patrols, one motorcycle party coming under mortar fire and abandoning one wounded man, who was recovered by a large patrol next day.

1-6 June

601 and 602 Cdo. Coys. carried out security operations in Stanley.

7 June

Two sections from 601 Cdo. Coy. fought a skirmish with elements of 3rd Bn., Parachute Regt. near Murrell Bridge. That night 3/601 set up an ambush at Murrell Bridge, but there was no contact.

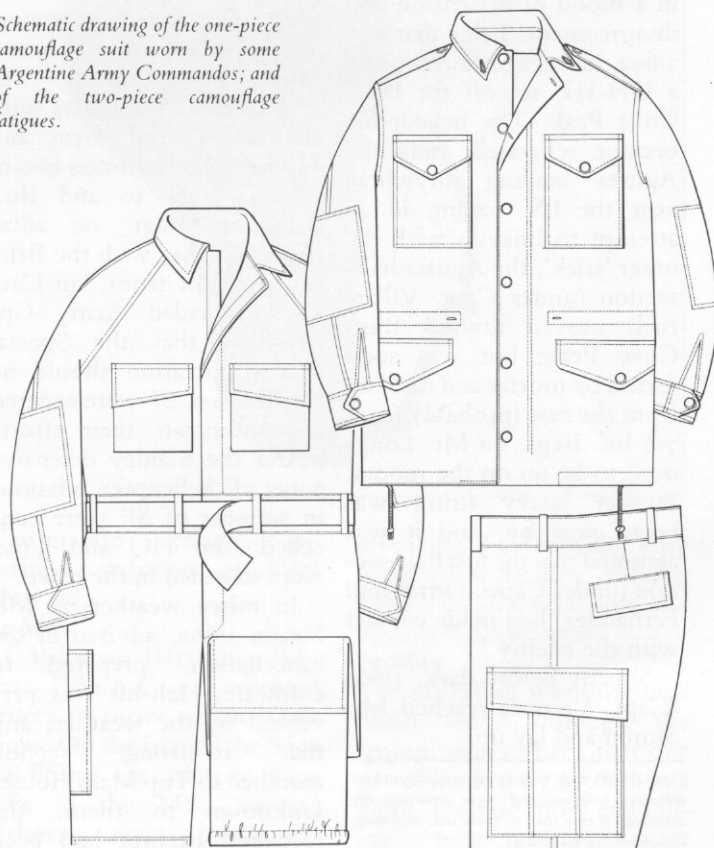
This was the last patrol outside Stanley. On 14 June 1982 the Special Forces passed

into British captivity along with the rest of the Argentine garrison. After screening, a number were held prisoner until 12 July.

In terms of conventional Special Forces, 601 Cdo. Coy. can hardly be said to have had a successful war. Too late at Pebble Island, and split between Port Howard and Stanley during the crucial third week of May while the British consolidated their beachhead, they proved of little operational value as a screen in front of the outer defence zone. They failed to dominate the unmilitarised areas of the islands, rarely visiting a settlement more than once. One Commando later remarked: 'I had a very boring war: I still had the same magazine in my FAL at the end as I had when I arrived.'

602 Cdo. Coy. were both ill-prepared and ill-used, and were destroyed as a cohesive fighting unit within 24 hours of commitment to the field. Although the Argentine high command must take much of the blame, the low morale, poor discipline and lack of professional leadership within the unit were factors in its defeat. **MI**

Schematic drawing of the one-piece camouflage suit worn by some Argentine Army Commandos; and of the two-piece camouflage fatigues.



Top centre:

Beret badge of Army Commandos.

Left:

Member of 601 Cdo. Coy., Stanley, mid-May. He examines the 9mm PA3 sub-machine gun, with Laser-Lok sights powered by a slung battery pack, which was issued to the unit to some extent at about the end of the first week in May. He wears the false 'polo-neck sweater' neck warmer, under the Argentine Army's olive wool pullover; a combat vest; and the trousers of the two-piece camouflaged fatigues, with standard Army-issue boots (of superior quality, and sought-after by British servicemen).

Right:

Member of 601 Cdo. Coy., holding a FN/FAP 50.41 7.62 mm squad light automatic, and with a belt fitted with extra magazine pouches slung over his shoulder; up to six pouches might be worn. He wears the Army's standard steel helmet, of US M1 design, with a camouflaged cover in a brown and green fern-like pattern: covers in uniform camouflage cloth were more common. Goggles, both clear and amber-tinted, were almost universal issue to Argentine troops. A first field dressing is held under the elasticated cover retaining band. Under the two-piece camouflage fatigues he wears the US M-65 quilted liner. The parachutist's brevet is worn on the left breast of the jacket. Two-sided scarves in olive and signal orange were quite widely worn; this example is in fact two, sewn end to end. The gauntlet-length, down-filled overgloves were of excellent quality; they were usually discarded when 'tactical', and tighter leather or fabric gloves were worn underneath. Note that rank insignia was almost unknown on combat clothing.

Centre:

Member of 602 Cdo. Coy., late May. In these units the green Commando beret was more commonly worn than the Army's green drab peaked combat caps, with or without pile ear flaps. This company displayed more varied combat clothing. Some had the standard camouflage fatigues; others, the universal green drab fatigues, including the Israeli-designed, Argentine-made parka, over which they wore camouflaged rainproofs. One two-piece rainproof suit was in similar but not identical camouflage to the fatigues, the colour patches smaller, darker and softer in outline. Photos taken before the war, and of 602 Cdo. Coy. prisoners after the Top Malo House action, show some Commandos wearing instead this very loose jacket and trousers in the French commercial 'K-Way/Salik International' pattern. The standard nylon webbing LBE made by Tempex is worn here; and the weapon is the folding-stock FAL 50.61 rifle, reported by Royal Marines Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre to have far superior stopping-power to their M16s.



The British Infantry Officer of the Peninsular War (2)

PHILIP J. HAYTHORNTHWAITE
Paintings by BRYAN FOSTEN

Part 1 of this article described the officer's uniform clothing and insignia. In this concluding part we cover the swords, belts and plates carried and worn by officers in the field; their campaigning equipment and privately purchased kit; and some known regimental distinctions recorded among their uniforms.



Shoulder belt plates. That of the 48th Foot, c.1812, is gilt, with a silver rim and central number, the latter on a matted ground. The rectangular plate of the 20th Foot, worn c.1802–20, is silver with a mounted design of the regimental number in Roman numerals within a crowned wreath, above the 'Egyptian' badge awarded to the regiment in July 1802.



Right: Serpent and lion-mask waist belt clasp, as worn by light companies.

Belts and Plates

Although on active service pistols or even muskets might be carried, infantry officers were officially armed only with a sword. This was suspended from a belt of buff-leather, worn over the right shoulder to the left hip. This was normally worn over the coatee and secured by the epaulette strap; for undress, it was worn over the waistcoat but under the coatee. The belt was whitened or, in those regiments with buff uniform facings, left in its natural colour.

The belt was fastened by an ornate plate situated in the middle of the wearer's breast; each regiment had its own pattern of plate, in metal corresponding to the gold or silver lace worn by regimental officers, with devices mounted in the contrasting metal. Devices included any distinctive badges possessed by the regiment, and usually (though not invariably) the regimental number. There were, in addition, plates of what might be termed a 'general pattern', bearing a crowned royal cypher, which may have been used by

officers who did not possess the official regimental plate.

Plate design seems to have been determined regimentally, not by orders from higher authority; indeed, it was not unknown for different battalions of the same regiment to wear plates of different designs, or for the flank companies to sport variations incorporating their own grenade or bugle devices. At the turn of the century the majority of plates were oval and engraved; as time passed, embossed plates or those with mounted designs (occasionally with fine enamelling) became increasingly common, as did rectangular plates. Workmanship was often of high quality, involving precious metals, e.g. silver and silver-gilt.

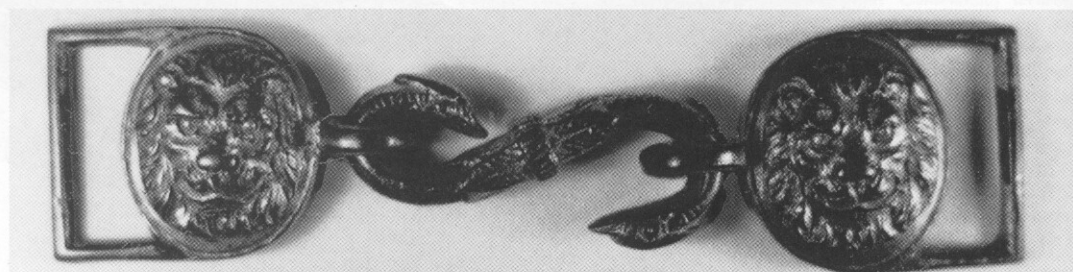
Officers of battalion companies wore the sword suspended from a frog at the left hip. For flank companies the usual suspension was by two slings, in light cavalry fashion, either from the shoulder belt or (unofficially) from a narrow waist belt instead. Field officers, whose mounted duties made slings more convenient, also used the waist belt; and occasionally a whole battalion would adopt a non-regulation style, such as the black waist belt universally worn by officers of the 5th Foot. A belt fitting favoured by officers of light companies was a silver whistle, used for signalling

when their men were skirmishing in open order; this could alternatively be suspended from a buttonhole on the jacket.

Swords

Prior to 1796 no definite regulation pattern of sword had existed, the official instructions noting only that it should have a 'strong, substantial', straight blade at least 32 in. long, and a hilt of gilt or silver according to the lace colour. These instructions produced the 'spadroon' pattern of 1786. In 1796 a new sword was ordered, with a similar blade and a new gilt hilt with a single knuckle-bow, shell guards, and a grip bound with silver wire. As the shells prevented it lying flat against the body, the left-hand shell was often hinged to fold flat when not in combat. Handsome though this sword appeared, it was of limited use, and the guard was fragile: Mercer of the Royal Artillery noted that '... nothing could be more useless or ridiculous ... [it was] good neither for cut nor thrust and was a perfect encumbrance'.¹ But, as it was never intended that infantry officers should become involved in hand-to-hand fighting, the pattern remained unchanged for a quarter of a century.

Originally the straight-bladed 1796 pattern was intended for use by flank company as well as by 'battalion' officers; but, even before its introduction, grenadiers and light infantry had begun unofficially using curved, light cavalry-style sabres as a further demonstration of their élite status. In 1799 sabres were officially approved; but no official pattern was specified until 1803, when a version with an exaggeratedly curved blade some



¹ Superior numbers in this article refer to source notes at the end.

30 in. long was introduced. It had a gilt hilt with a single knuckle-bow (sometimes mounted with small grenade or bugle badges) connecting a lion-head pommel to a small, voided handguard. Incorporated in the knuckle-bow was a moulded or pierced crowned royal cypher. Both the 1796 and 1803 patterns had black leather scabbards with gilt mounts, those for the sabre often including a very long chape and wide lockets.

Attractive though it appeared, as a weapon the 1803 sabre, too, was reviled. Kincaid described it as 'better designed to shave a lady's-maid than a Frenchman's head'.² Thomas Austin of the 35th, after actually using it in combat, noted that '... the only use we could make of our weapons, which were curved like reaping-hooks ... was to jab away with the hilts at the head and faces of those in front of us', concluding that by the end of the fight there must have been many Frenchmen in need of a dentist!³

It was presumably because of the impractical nature of the regulation weapons that wide use seems to have been made of unauthorised swords, ranging from the 1796 pattern light dragoon sabre — an unwieldy but effective weapon — to the oriental 'mameluke' sabres favoured by light companies. Most of these were acquired privately by individuals; but certain regiments (notably the light infantry corps, not covered in this present article) adopted distinct patterns, some of which are listed in the table of facings and distinctions which follows. Additionally, it should be noted that the minor variations on the regulation patterns — especially the 1803 sabre — were legion. For all types, the sword knot had a crimson and gold lace strap with a knot of gold bullion or fringe over a crimson silk pad or centre.

The cost of a sword represented a considerable expense for an impecunious subaltern: even the plain sabre carried by



Field officer of the 25th Foot, 1812: print after Goddard & Booth. Note the lace on the breast of the coatee, on both red and blue sides of the 'lapels'; the short plume on the bicorne hat; and the non-regulation mameluke sabre slung from a waist belt, apparently with a badged plate. (Unless otherwise attributed, photographs used in this article are from the author's collection.)

the 52nd, for example, cost four guineas — 16 days' pay for an ensign.

CAMPAIGN DRESS

A major modernisation in the appearance of the British officer occurred in 1808, when hair powder and 'queues' were abandoned, much to the relief of all who had suffered this uncomfortable style. Henceforth the hair was to be cut short, with sideburns normally extending no lower than the bottom of the ear. However, it became the style in the Peninsula to grow sidewhiskers and even moustaches (the latter hitherto exclusively a grenadier distinction in certain regiments only). When worn in Britain this facial hair became the hallmark of the

seasoned campaigner, and even found its way into a popular joke of the day:

Civilian, to veteran on leave: 'When will your whiskers go on to the Peace Establishment?'

Veteran: 'When your tongue goes on to the Civil List!'

A relic of the queue remained in the form of the black ribbons worn at the rear of the collar by officers of the 23rd Foot, a traditional regimental distinction worn to this day, which may well have appeared as soon as the queue was abandoned.

Numerous modifications of dress were affected when on campaign, from personal choice or grim necessity. While describing a regiment as a 'moving rag-fair' would

seem to have been a little harsh, hard service often forced the use of any garment which became available — either bought, stolen, or stripped from the dead. Such practices were not confined to the rank and file: officers on campaign were equally far from the usual sources of resupply, and contemporary accounts make much of the wretched state of clothing and the lengths to which men went to repair or replace ragged garments. George Simmons was typical; writing in 1811, he said: 'Clothes are expensive and bad. My jacket is brown ... Never was seen such a motley group of fellows. I luckily got some French shirts and other articles, or I should be nearly naked.' Twice at least, Simmons robbed corpses, taking a French officer's cloak in June 1813 and a cuirassier's greatcoat at Waterloo.⁴

Kincaid, the Rifleman, noted that his jacket, 'in spite of shreds and patches, always maintained something of the original about it; but woe befell the regimental small-clothes [i.e., from the sense of this passage, trousers], and they could only be replaced by very extraordinary apologies, of which I remember I had two pairs ... one of a common brown Portuguese cloth, and the other, or Sunday's pair of black velvet.'⁵

Brown Portuguese cloth — the undyed wool of the brown native sheep — was made up into all garments from jackets and trousers to greatcoats, adding to the motley appearance of the army. Footwear was also scarce. Many officers preferred stout shoes and gaiters to ordinary boots, and replaced worn-out pairs with civilian

continued on p. 28



Captain, light company, 82nd (Prince of Wales' Volunteers) Regt., 1808

Based upon a contemporary portrait, this regimental variation on the light company uniform includes a cap bearing the regiment's Prince of Wales' plumes within a crowned garter instead of the usual bugle-horn, and non-regulation cords; the large, squared peak was a common feature. A further remarkable peculiarity is the wearing of epaulettes instead of the regulation wings; and the use of a waist belt should be noted. The 1803 pattern sabre is carried instead of the 82nd's stirrup-hilted regimental pattern, with a knot much larger than normal. The

silver belt plate usually worn was oval, broader than normal, and bore the Prince of Wales' plumes over '82' within a scroll. The 82nd served at Roleia, Vimiero, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle and Orthes.



Swords, top to bottom: two varieties of 1796 pattern battalion company sword; two varieties of non-regulation flank company sabre; regulation 1803 flank company sabre; non-regulation flank company sabre with brass scabbard.



Officer, light company, 36th (Herefordshire) Regt., 1811

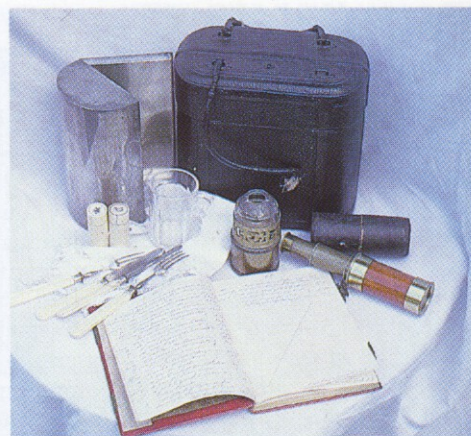
A further variation on the light company uniform, again from a contemporary portrait. The cap bears the usual badge of regimental number and bugle-horn, but has an unusually large cockade, a gold lace band, and green cords. The usual jacket has the lapels folded back as triangles, and a whistle is suspended from one. The wings are of regulation style, but the sash is of 'line' pattern instead of the prescribed corded light infantry type. The oval gilt belt plate had a beaded silver edge and bore a silver star bearing a gilt strap inscribed 'HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT' with a silver lion on a crown above '36' on the gilt centre. The 36th served at Roleia, Corunna, Vimiero, Salamanca, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes and Toulouse.



Officer, light company, 45th (Nottinghamshire) Regt.; campaign dress, 1812

This depicts the regulation light company uniform without major regimental peculiarities. The short jacket has typical pocket decoration of silver lace loops, and the turn-backs bear silver embroidered bugle-horns. The wings are of the style with interlocking chains, with bullion edging, and a central device of a gold bugle-horn on a silver disc.

Officers' personal kit, all of the Peninsular War period: a portable canteen holding a tinned food box, ivory cruet, bone-handled knives and forks, with a glass tumbler and a napkin; a portable brass spirit lamp with a glass top; a pocket telescope with waterproof container; and a Peninsular War account book.



Officer, 53rd (Shropshire) Regt.; campaign dress, 1812

This typical winter campaign uniform includes the voluminous great-coat, overalls, a covered hat, and a haversack. The belt plate, the only visible sign of regimental identity, consisted of a gilt oval bearing a crown over '53' over a foliate spray, all in silver. The 53rd Foot served at Talavera, Salamanca, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle and Toulouse.

purchases or those captured from the enemy; or, in *extremis*, copied Assistant Surgeon Brookes of the 87th, who was compelled in June 1809 to resort to burglary to cover his bare feet! By the end of a campaigning season a regiment might well appear like Ross-Lewin's description of his 32nd Foot: 'No one . . . could possibly have discovered . . . the original colour of our clothing, for it was so patched with a diversity of colours, and so bespoke a variety of wretchedness that . . . we must have borne an un-

Below:

Hilt, and scabbard, of the 1796 pattern officer's sword carried by battalion companies: the hinged left shell guard is extended here. (Black Watch Regimental Museum)

desirable resemblance to Falstaffe's ragged regiment.'⁶

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT

Campaign kit was limited to what could be carried by the individual in his haversack, or on his mule (which might be shared with other officers) in a portmanteau or valise. The extensive campaigning equipment which some took with them was usually reduced to a practical minimum as an officer's increasing experience taught him what was really necessary and what was an encumbrance. Lt. G. R. Gleig of the 85th described assembling his kit for the Peninsula in spring 1813:

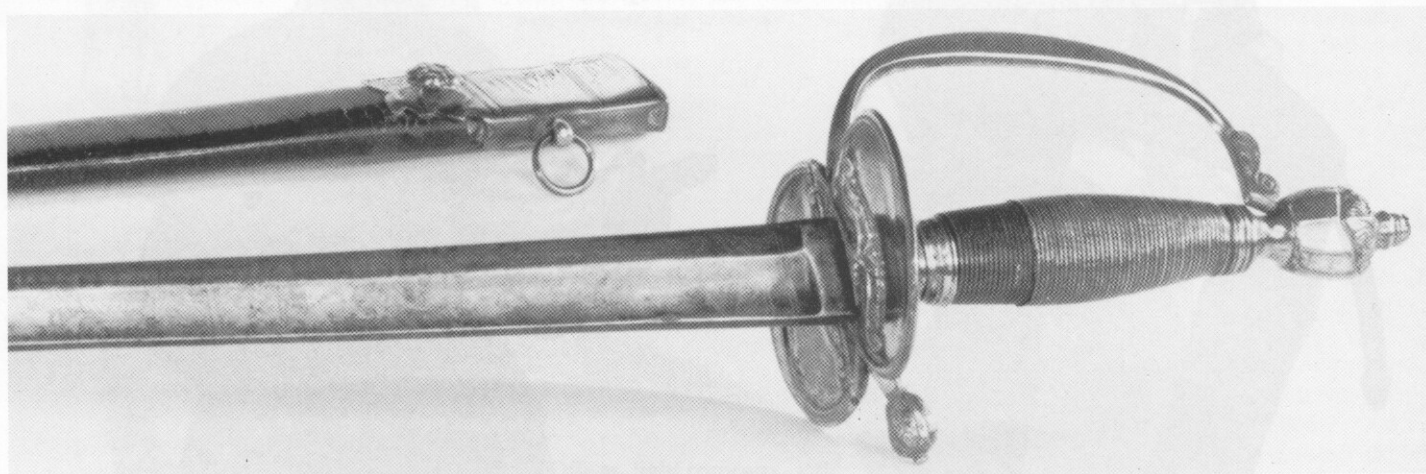
' . . . A selection was made

from our respective wardrobes of such articles of apparel as, being in a state of tolerable preservation, promised to continue for some time serviceable; canteens were hastily fitted up, and stored with tea, sugar, and other luxuries; cloaks were purchased by those who possessed them not, and put in a state of repair by those who did . . . I . . . packed up in two small portmanteaus [sic], so formed as to be an equal balance to each other when slung across the back of a mule; my kit was not remarkable either for its bulk or its tenuity . . .

'In one of these portmanteaus, then, I deposited a regimental jacket, with all its appendages of wings, lace,

etc.; two pairs of grey trousers; sundry waistcoats, white, coloured, and flannel; a few changes of flannel drawers; half-a-dozen pairs of worsted stockings, and as many of cotton. In the other were six shirts, two or three cravats, a dressing-case completely filled, one undress pelisse, three pairs of boots, two pairs of shoes, with pocket-handkerchiefs, etc., etc., in proportion. Thus, though not encumbered by any useless quantity of apparel, I carried with me quite enough to load a mule, and to insure myself against the dangers of falling short for at least a couple of years to come.'⁷

By the autumn of that year Gleig was a hardened campaigner and, typically, had

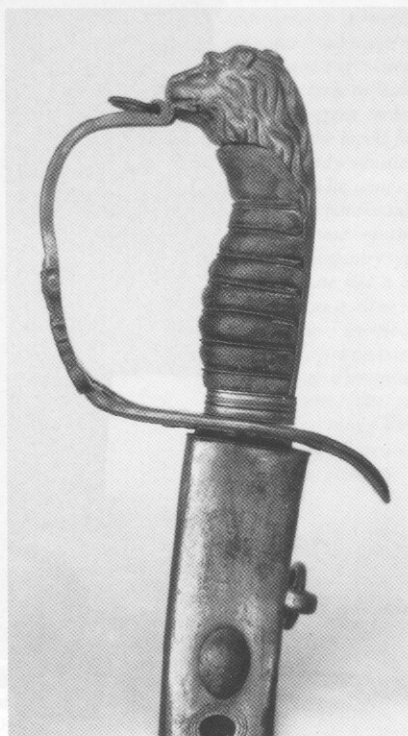


Right:

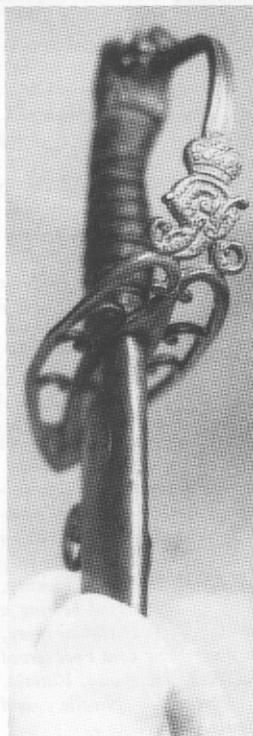
A variety of flank company sabre hilts typical of the range of weapons carried by British officers of the period:

(A) 1803 flank company sabre. (B) One of several varieties of cypher borne upon the guard of the 1803 sabre. (C) Non-regulation hilt with chequered ivory grip and lion-head pommel. (D) Non-regulation brass stirrup hilt with reeded ivory grip. (E) Non-regulation brass stirrup hilt, the leather grip bound with gilt wire. (F) A cut-price way of producing the fashionable 'mameluke' hilt: a flank company sabre with the stirrup hilt cut away. The pommel and quillon might have been joined by a detachable length of chain.

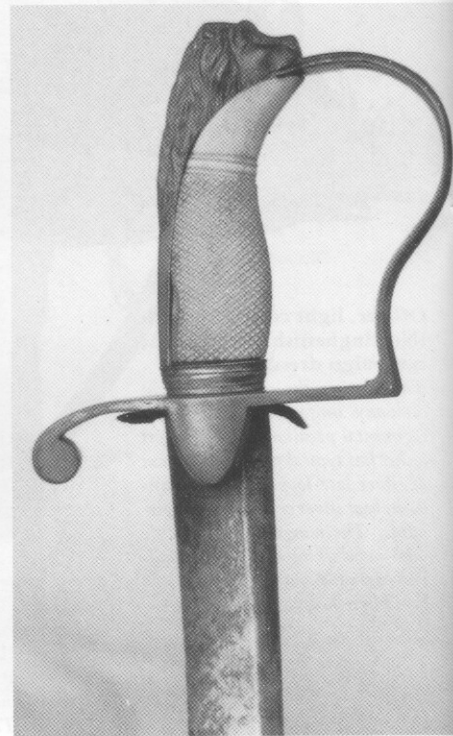
A



B



C



reduced his immediate impedimenta to a black leather haversack slung on his back containing a few clothes, cold meat, biscuit and rum, plus a pair of pistols, his sword, belt, and a 'pelisse' (in this case probably used in the sense of an overcoat). He had, however, added to his kit those items indispensable to an English gentleman, even on campaign: a fishing rod, a fowling piece, a spaniel, two greyhounds and a pointer!

Portable dining-sets existed in a variety of styles; some included food containers, cutlery, salt and pepper pots, even a glass tumbler and a serviette, all packed in a stout, portable box which would fit in a haversack. Another variety included cutlery contained in a leather roll, to take up even less space. But such richly equipped canteens were more often replaced by the kind of basic kit described by Kincaid:

'A haversack on service is a sort of dumb waiter. The mess have a good many things in common, but the contents of the haversack are exclusively the property of its owner; and a well-regulated one ought never to be without the following furniture, unless when the perishable part is consumed, in con-



sequence of every other means of supply having failed, viz, a couple of biscuit, a sausage, a little tea and sugar, a knife, fork and spoon, a tin cup (which answers to the name of tea-cup, soup-plate, wine-glass and tumbler), a pair of socks, a piece of soap, a tooth-brush, towel, and comb, and half a dozen cigars.⁸

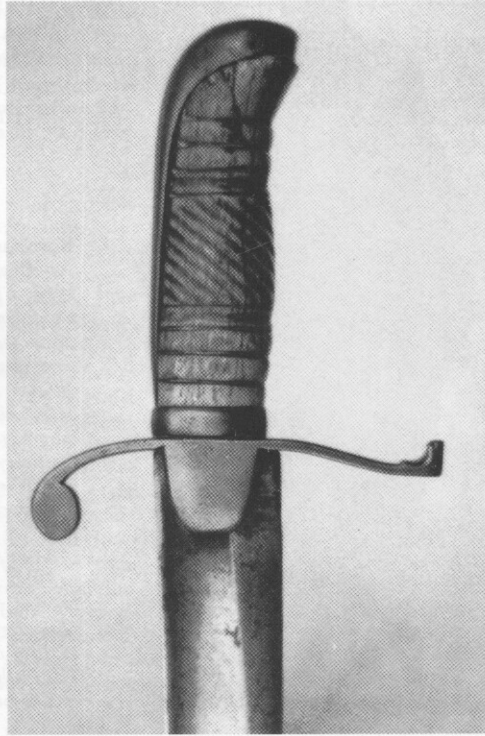
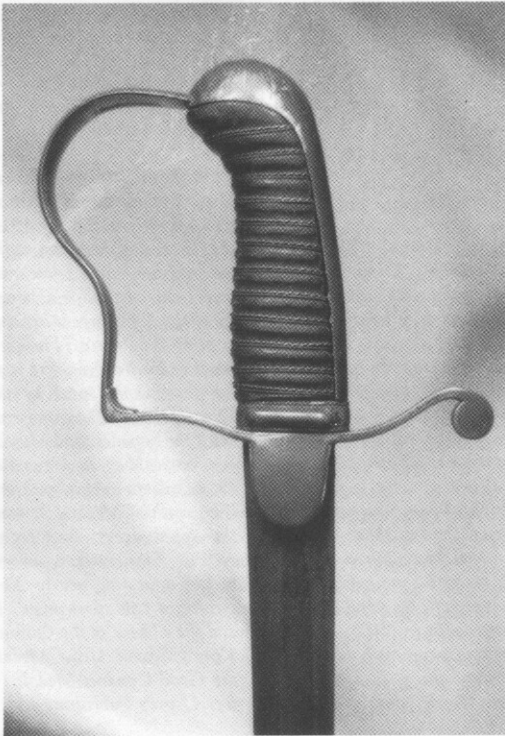
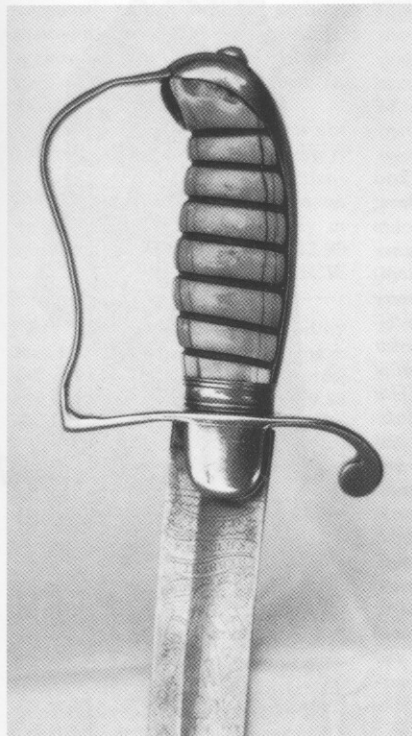
In 1814 Thomas Austin of the 35th Foot noted: 'Our stock of cutlery was confined to a clasp-knife and a clasp-fork, the handles of which fit-

ted by pins and slots to each other; and, with the addition of a clasp-spoon, attached to the opposite end of the fork handle, made a very useful pocket apparatus, but at the same time one that was by no means suited to delicate and skilful carving."

The remaining kit would include all the other items needed by a gentleman when travelling: razors, writing set, perhaps a portable lamp (all made to pack into the smallest space possible); an account book; usually, something to

Etching by Thomas Rowlandson from The Military Adventures of Johnny Newcome, a satirical verse story of the experiences of a young officer going out to the Peninsula. Here we see Johnny, pursued by beggars, visiting an outfitter to order his campaigning kit before leaving England. Caricatures, though distorted, can be useful references to uniform styles: they may exaggerate noticeable features, but they seldom invent them. There are three points to note in this example: the very low bicorne, the dandified neck-cloth at the throat, and the very short 'jockey' boots (?) or deep overall reinforcement. (National Army Museum)

continued on p. 32



PREVIEW

We are delighted to be able to offer 'MP' readers a preview of what we believe to be one of the most important and valuable titles to appear in Osprey's *Men-at-Arms* series in recent years: Michael Chappell's **'British Battle Insignia (1): 1914-18'**, which is published in November as MAA 182.

It is notorious that the complex schemes of arm and back patches, helmet markings, and other devices adopted for battlefield identification by British units in the trenches more or less died with them in 1919. These schemes, which usually had some 'internal' logic but which were devised and authorised no higher up the chain of command than division, were simply not recorded in the great majority of cases. There have been published references to divisional signs (often irrelevant to the insignia worn on uniform), mostly based on Wheeler-Holohan's book of the 1920s; but we do not believe that anything more than the occasional individual example of unit battle patches

has been published since, at any price. Mike Chappell's work — the fruit of many years of painstaking research — is thus extraordinary value at only £3.95.

After interesting and useful explanatory sections, he plunges in and gives us, in order, every division of the British Army which saw action in the war. Each section lists origins, arrivals and departures from the Fronts, and (in order, so that their separation into brigades is a simple matter of counting in fours and threes) the constituent infantry battalions at a stated date. If anything is known about a scheme of battle patches, it is listed.

This tightly-organised text must be used in conjunction with the mono illustrations. These are a mixture of photos, showing either actual surviving insignia or the insignia being worn at the time; and detailed line-and-tone schematics, showing the insignia of the various divisions in a consistently key-shaded presentation. Again, there is no space to duplicate, so a further selection will be found in the crowded and remarkably colourful plates: eight pages of full colour, into which Chappell crams no less than 28 figures (or the 'useful' top halves of figures!) and 46 insignia details.

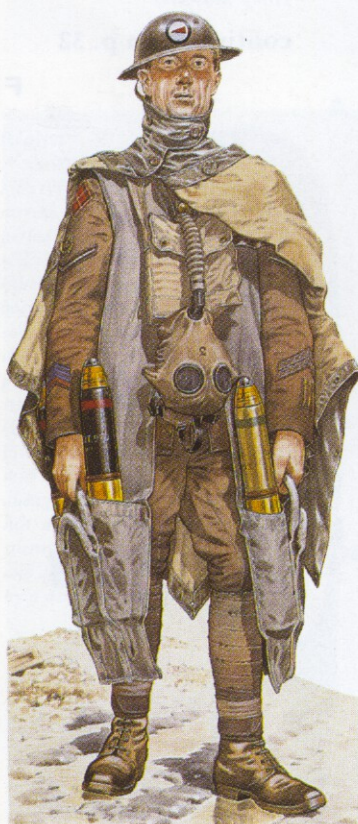
Mike Chappell does not pretend that this is a com-

prehensive listing; but his book represents a real advance in research, which we think will be a spur to photo-researchers to carry his work forward — and to modellers, to make use of it. We are not too familiar with this period, and found the plates quite astonishingly attractive: the examples reproduced here give a faint idea of the flavour.

The author tells us that he is currently preparing the second of these titles, which will produce some surprises in the area of Second World War insignia worn in battle. **MI**

Corporal bomber, C Coy., 8th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps; 14th Division, September 1915. Wearing a rolled-up PH helmet and goggles, and the 'shorts' which were quite common on the Western Front in summer, he hurls a No.1 Mk.II grenade taken from an improvised pannier with a pierced wooden top. The bomber's badge — a khaki drab 'bomb' with a red flame — is worn on his right arm. The battle patches indicate company within battalion (blue bar) and battalion within brigade (red triangle).

The details below show the scheme of battle patches worn by 62nd Bde., 21st Div., 1918. These are the patches worn to identify battalions, on the back below the collar (left-hand image of each pair) and on the upper arms (right-hand images). They were worn by (top to bottom) 12/13th Northumberland Fusiliers — 'V' refers to the old 5th Foot; 3/4th Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt. — the flag recalling their 'lamb and flag' badge; and 1st Lincolns, the shape again recalling the Roman numeral of their old Line number, 10.



Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery; 15th Division, 1918. The divisional sign is painted on the helmet. On his right sleeve we can see a tartan battle patch identifying his unit within the division; a gun layer's qualification badge; his rank badge; and four of the overseas service stripes, retrospectively awarded only in 1918. On his left sleeve we see two good conduct chevrons, indicating more than five years' service, above two of the gold wound stripes introduced in 1916. He wears the groundsheet or 'cape, waterproof'; the small box respirator introduced in 1917; and artillery carrying panniers holding HE (yellow) and shrapnel (black) rounds for the 18-pdr. gun.

Private stretcher-bearer, 2nd Bn. Seaforth Highlanders; 4th Division, 1 July 1916. On the first day of the Somme offensive the stretcher-bearer (note brassard) wears his battalion's temporary 'field sign' of a large white tape 'C' sewn to the sleeves. The green bar sewn to his helmet cover is part of the first scheme used by the 4th Div.: green, yellow and red indicated the brigades, and a horizontal bar, vertical bar, square or diamond the battalions within each brigade. The patch of Mackenzie tartan on the upper sleeves is a regimental device. This veteran wears GC badges indicating nearly 20 years' service; a rifle marksman's badge; and the ribbons of the Queen's and King's South Africa Medals and the Good Conduct Medal. (Courtesy Osprey Publishing Ltd.)



REVIEWS

'Modern Fighting Men: Uniforms and Equipment since World War II' edited by Dr. John Pimlott & Adrian Gilbert; colour plates by Malcolm McGregor; Macdonald/Orbis, London; 192pp; 200 photos, some col.; 84 col. plates; £12.95

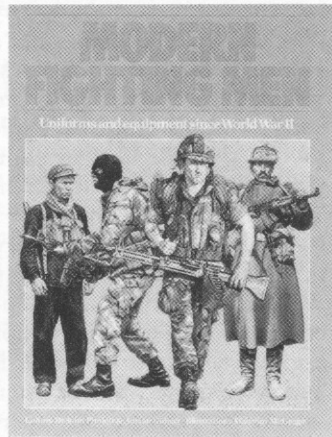
First, the good news. This is a handsome, large-format book, attractively designed. It offers a lot of good, clear uniform reference, much of it on unusual subjects. Malcolm McGregor's artwork is to his usual high standard, in his clear, clean 'photographic' style. Many of the photos are of hard-to-find subjects. The potted campaign appreciations accompanying each subject are often very informative.

The bad news is that if you already collect Orbis's 'War in Peace' part-work you should examine the book before buying: the artwork and text are largely a compilation of material already seen in that magazine series, although we believe there are some new photos. While the credentials of the editors are not in question, neither is, to my knowledge, a specialist in costume and equipment; and the fact that their byline is as 'editors' rather than authors suggests a weakness which in my opinion is confirmed by further reading. The descriptions of actual uniform and kit are patchy. Some are first class; others betray an imperfect knowledge of the specific subject depicted, and are thin, general in tone, and sometimes downright wrong. Every publication on our vast and intricate subject contains inevitable slips — this magazine, and all the present reviewer's books included; our subject is one involving constant new discoveries. There is much here of real interest and value. But do not necessarily treat it as gospel without cross-checking, where possible, against some other source published by a genuinely specialist expert on the particular subject depicted.

That said, the reader who has not collected 'War in Peace' and who is perhaps unable to call upon an extensive library of specialist books on modern campaigns, particularly in the Third World, will find his £12.95 well spent. **MCW**

'War' by Gwynne Dyer; Bodley Head; 272pp; maps & diagrams + 142 illus.; index; source notes; £15.00 hardbound, £9.95 softbound

This is an ambitious book, that works. A Canadian academic, Dyer has made a challenging and well-written book out of material assembled for a TV series (sadly, not yet seen in the UK). It might be described, loosely, as coming from 'Keegan-Ellis' country: the thoughtful examination of the human experience of warfare, and its implications, based on exhaustive research of first-



hand sources rather than on generalisations.

Taking as his hypothesis that war is a by-product of civilisation, he traces the relationship between military and civilian life and attitudes down the centuries. He draws the interesting lesson that technical advance — e.g. the introduction of gunpowder, and more recently of nuclear weapons — outstrips any parallel advance in political skills. While war itself changes, becoming ever more damaging, the decisions which may unleash its now-terrifying consequences are the products of more-or-less unchanging human judgements, often based on out-of-date premises.

He identifies the process by which ordinary boys are taken from civilian life and turned into soldiers with an unflinching eye; but this is not an 'anti-soldier' book. Indeed, he stresses that in many ways soldiers exemplify virtues that have become rare in modern society. (The captions to the photos seem to have been written by a rather less original hand, however.) In these pages Gen. Sir John Hackett — in a good example of the well-researched interviews and quotations which support Dyer's text — puts a rational case in favour of armed force, but against its ultimate manifestation in nuclear weapons.

The book is full of thought provoking facts and insights. To quote only one: it has apparently been established that in World War II, even when in real danger under enemy attack, only a quarter of any given number of US soldiers actually fired their rifles: a finding which directly affected post-war training.

Dyer finishes with the conclusion that since nuclear war is an unacceptable option; and since a 'UN with teeth' is unlikely in the near future; so our generation faces the daunting and unwanted challenge of somehow 'uncoupling' war from the age-old processes of civilisation, if we are to survive. **EWWF**

'The British Soldier: A Social History from 1661 to the Present Day' by J. M. Brereton; Bodley Head; 208pp; no illus.; index; source notes; £10.95

This book concentrates on the life and conditions of the man in the ranks; his physical and moral environment, pay and quarters, training and discipline. Active service is touched upon, but the emphasis is on barrack life at home and abroad. Nevertheless, it is an ambitious undertaking for a book of 208 pages. There are entertaining passages; but for this reviewer the book is flawed by numerous petty inaccuracies in the chapters dealing with his own special interests and period of experience, which induce a certain scepticism about the rest of the text. This did not seem to us particularly well organised or balanced, and contains examples of irritatingly woolly ambiguity. **MC**

'From the Somme to the Armistice: The Memoirs of Capt. Stormont Gibbs, MC', ed. Richard Devonald-Lewis; William Kimber; 206pp, approx. 45pp illus. & maps; index, notes, appendices; £11.95

The well-edited and annotated memoirs of an officer of the 4th Suffolk who saw action from summer 1916 on the Somme, through the battles of Arras, 1917, and Third Ypres and the retreat of 1918. This book — with a foreword by the Rt. Hon. Enoch Powell — is a fascinating narrative, unflinchingly honest, full of details of trench life and of the First War army. Recommended. **MI**

'L'Armée de la Victoire: du Rhin au Danube, 1944-45' by Paul Gaujac; Charles-Lavauzelle, Paris; 220pp, illus., maps; available Photobook Information Service Ltd., 18 Ursula St., London SW11, at £35.95

This impressive book is the fourth in the author's series recounting in detail the operations of the reborn French Army, from its re-armament by the Allies in North Africa in 1943 to VE-Day. This final volume traces the advance of the French 1st Army from November 1944: the battles of Belfort, Strasbourg, the Colmar Pocket, the crossings of the Rhine and Neckar, the advance through the Black Forest, and the penetration of Austria. It also covers the re-organisation of the army to incorporate the French Forces of the Interior alongside the veteran African formations. With photos on almost every page, this unavoidably expensive import is a first-class work of pictorial reference to an army and a campaign too little known among 'Anglo-Saxons'. **MI**

'The French Foreign Legion' by John Robert Young; Thames and Hudson, £7.95 is a new soft-bound edition of the £12.95 hardback published in 1984. Though, as in the first edition, some of the 200-plus colour photos have printed rather dark, it is still a fine reference source at a very fair price. **MI**

We have also received:

'The Outermost Frontier' by Helmut Pabst (William Kimber, £9.95), the posthumous diary of a young German soldier killed in Russia in September 1943.

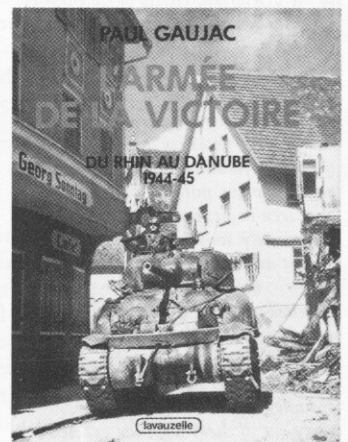
'Into the Mouth of the Cat' by Malcolm McConnell (W. W. Norton & Co., £11.95), the biography of Lt. Lance Sijan, USAF, who died in North Vietnamese custody after showing extraordinary courage when shot down and badly injured in Laos in 1967.

'One Man's Desert' by Rex Woods (William Kimber; £11.95), the story of Capt. Philip Gardner, VC, MC, a hero of 4th RTR in the North African Campaign.

'Death of the Wolf Packs' by Geoffrey Jones (William Kimber; £11.95), an account of the anti-submarine war in the Atlantic in 1943/44.

'Soldier into Spy' by Roland Rieul (William Kimber, £11.95), the memoirs of a French Resistance hero.

'Britain's Civil Wars' by Charles Townshend (Faber & Faber, £14.95), an analysis of British counter-insurgency operations from colonial days to the present. **MI**



continued from p. 29

read — the works of Sir Walter Scott were popular; and a few trimmings of civilisation like the pillow-case and two tablecloths carried by Edward Freer of the 43rd in 1809. Of more value would be a watch; a spy-glass or telescope, the pocket variety being popular; and a water bottle of some kind — either the regulation heavy wooden 'Italian' type carried by the rank and file, or a gourd or calabash, or a privately purchased glass bottle or flask in some kind of slung carrying cover. Though reading matter might include a book on

Spanish topography or customs, few regimental officers would have much to do with maps. Their routes would be directed by higher command, and even those maps that were available were largely of a quality and accuracy fit only 'to be burned by the public hangman', as Gen. Graham remarked.

Officers of higher rank — company commanders and field officers, as well as some of the more affluent subalterns — might run to more elaborate equipment, like that used by all officers when billeted at the end of the annual campaigning season. Though

personal tents were not common, not all were compelled to use the rudimentary sleeping bags described by many officers, such as Kincaid: 'a blanket sewed up at the sides, like a sack . . . with a green sod or smooth stone for a pillow.'¹⁰ Others, like Sir John Colborne, carried with them 'a very nice little iron bed . . . it folded up and took up very little room, and scarcely weighed six pounds.'¹¹ Generally, however, the junior regimental officer lay as hard, and as exposed as his men when on campaign; apart from the expense of more elaborate provisions for personal comfort, the Com-

mander of the Forces kept a merciless eye on officers' personal baggage transport, and had no notion of allowing the tail of the column of march to be cluttered up with extra beasts and wagons.

Those officers whose wives travelled with them on campaign gained a semblance of comfort in camp, at the cost of the extra expense and the worrying responsibility. There are some charming vignette descriptions of these little family encampments, where a spirited lady ruled over a mobile household, determined to brave all dangers and hardships rather than be parted from her husband. While a prisoner at Olivenza in May 1811 the French Baron Lejeune saw such a family pass by on the march:

'First came the captain in his scarlet uniform, mounted on a beautiful horse, and carrying a large open parasol; behind came his wife, elegantly dressed and wearing a very small straw hat. Seated on a donkey, she held up an umbrella and caressed a little black and tan King Charles spaniel on her knee, while she led gracefully by a blue ribbon a tame goat, which was meant to supply her with cream for her cups of tea

An interesting, perhaps unique example of the sort of officer's undress cap which existed in many unregulated personal and regimental patterns; this example, c.1808, is entirely covered with silver lace.



Below:

The Duke of Wellington's folding campaign chair/bed, of metal and canvas. Few junior officers would have been able to lug one of these around the Peninsula, despite the enticing language of an advertisement in the The Courier of 20 April 1811: 'Whoever contemplates the conduct and situation of our gallant army in Portugal, must hail the invention of any thing that tends to increase its comforts and facilitate its operations; and we rejoice in being able to say, that our Officers need no longer be exposed to the deleterious effects of sleeping on the ground, from the recent invention of a very convenient and portable Camp Bed, which in one minute may be folded up into a small portmanteau, containing every other necessity for a march; the whole forming the most elegant and complete military appendage ever seen in Europe! This bed is so ingeniously constructed, as to defy almost any accident to put it out of repair; being one entire piece attached to the trunk, which is water-proof, and so remarkably light and portable, that it might easily be affixed to the saddle of a Cavalry Officer, or one mule might carry six of them with the greatest facility . . . its materials and construction, which are beautiful and ingenious, affording the greatest security against the production and harbouring of vermin.' (National Army Museum)



continued on p. 34

PENINSULAR WAR LINE REGIMENTS

The following regiments of British line infantry all served at some time during the Peninsular War. In addition to details of title, facing colour and officers' lace and/or button colour, a few regimental features are noted (immediately below the unit concerned) to demonstrate the type of variety which existed. These are selected as examples only: most regiments had some distinctive features, even if only in the minutiae of e.g. turnback badges and epaulette design. Shoulder belt plate varieties are only noted in those cases where plates exhibited a wide divergence from the usual shape.

Regiment	Facings	Lace
1st (Royal Scots)	Blue	Gold
<i>Regimental pattern sword, 1796 and 1803 patterns having regimental badge on guard. Brass scabbards for field officers.</i>		
2nd (Queen's Royal)	Blue	Silver
3rd (East Kent, Buffs)	Buff	Silver
4th (King's Own, Lancaster)	Blue	Silver (gold from 1807)
<i>Velvet facings, traditionally of extra width. Flank coy. wings red with gold zig-zag lace, bearing silver grenade on red patch, or lion on crown over silver bugle.</i>		
5th (Northumberland)	Gosling green	Silver
<i>Whole regt. had worn grenadier caps in full dress, commemorating capture of French caps at Wilhelmstahl, 1762; may have been retained into this era, but 1810 Inspection noted 'no grenadier caps'. Whole unit may also have continued to wear white plumes. 1811 Inspection noted that officers wore black waist belts instead of shoulder belts. Headdress decorated with laurel on 6 April after 1812, commemorating Badajos.</i>		
6th (1st Warwickshire)	Yellow	Silver
7th (Royal Fusiliers)	Blue	Gold
<i>Fusilier caps worn for dress occasions, and perhaps in early part of Peninsular War. Epaulettes had gilt scale straps bearing 'R' and 'F' on either side of rose within crowned garter.</i>		
9th (East Norfolk)	Yellow	Silver
<i>Very small shoulder belt plate recorded. In 1890 officers of 1st Bn. wore blue pantaloons, and may have continued to do so.</i>		
10th (North Lincolnshire)	Yellow	Silver
<i>Epaulettes and wings had silver scale straps; crescent-shaped shoulder belt plates; both these and epaulettes bore '10' in wreath.</i>		
11th (North Devonshire)	Deep green	Gold
<i>Light coy.: mameluke sabre with gilt guard, black grip, steel scabbard.</i>		
14th (Bedfordshire; from 1809, Buckinghamshire)	Buff	Silver
<i>Grenadier cap plates red with silver devices.</i>		
20th (East Devonshire)	Yellow	Silver
23rd (Royal Welsh Fusiliers)	Blue	Gold
<i>Fusilier caps as noted for 7th; epaulettes had gilt scale straps but wings were red. Regimental sabre like 1803 pattern but with gilt stirrup hilt with large langets bearing regimental badge.</i>		
24th (Warwickshire)	Green	Silver
26th (Cameronian)	Yellow	Silver
27th (Inniskilling)	Buff	Gold
28th (North Gloucestershire)	Yellow	Silver
<i>Extant flank coy. sabre has gilt scabbard.</i>		
29th (Worcestershire)	Yellow	Silver
30th (Cambridgeshire)	Pale Yellow	Silver
31st (Huntingdonshire)	Buff	Silver
32nd (Cornwall)	White	Gold
<i>Horn badge on light coy. cap — officers mistaken for musicians!</i>		
34th (Cumberland)	Yellow	Silver
36th (Herefordshire)	Gosling green	Gold
<i>White piping to facings. For ball dress officers wore tight green pantaloons with gold stripe, and gold-laced Hessian boots.</i>		

Regiment	Facings	Lace
37th (North Hampshire)	Yellow	Silver
38th (1st Staffordshire)	Yellow	Silver
39th (Dorsetshire)	Pea green	Gold
40th (2nd Somersetshire)	Buff	Gold
<i>Extant sword of 1796 pattern has knuckle bow replaced by chain; light coy. modification?</i>		
44th (East Essex)	Yellow	Silver
45th (Nottinghamshire)	Dark green	Silver
47th (Lancashire)	White	Silver
48th (Northamptonshire)	Buff	Gold
50th (West Kent)	Black	Silver
<i>Silver epaulette straps had interwoven black lines.</i>		
53rd (Shropshire)	Red	Gold
<i>Flank coy. wings very richly embroidered with gold wire.</i>		
56th (West Essex)	Purple	Silver
57th (West Middlesex)	Yellow	Gold
58th (Rutlandshire)	Black	Gold
59th (2nd Nottinghamshire)	White	Gold
61st (South Gloucestershire)	Buff	Silver
<i>Shoulder belts had silver buckle and slider instead of belt plate.</i>		
62nd (Wiltshire)	Buff	Silver
66th (Berkshire)	Gosling green	Silver
67th (South Hampshire)	Yellow	Silver
74th (Highland)	White	Gold
<i>De-kilted 1809; thereafter, line uniform.</i>		
76th (Hindoostan)	Red	Silver
77th (East Middlesex)	Yellow	Silver
81st	Buff	Silver
82nd (Prince of Wales' Volunteers)	Yellow	Silver
<i>Extant light coy. sabres have either stirrup hilt with langets bearing a bugle, or are 1803 pattern but with all-metal scabbard.</i>		
83rd	Yellow	Silver
84th (York & Lancaster)	Yellow	Silver
87th (Prince of Wales' Own Irish)	Green	Gold
88th (Connaught Rangers)	Yellow	Silver
91st	Yellow	Silver
<i>De-kilted 1809; light coy. wore gilt thistle on cap front.</i>		
94th (Scotch Brigade)	Green	Gold
96th	Buff	Silver
97th (Queen's Germans)	Blue	Silver

The following regiments, which also served in the Peninsula, are not included in the main list as none were uniformed as ordinary line regiments, and they thus fall outside the scope of this present article:

Highland regiments: 42nd, 79th, 92nd, 93rd

Light Infantry regiments: 43rd, 51st, 52nd, 68th, 71st, 85th

Rifle corps: 60th, 95th

Distinctive badges granted to regiments which served in the Peninsula, according to 1802 Clothing regulations:

1st: thistle and crown 2nd: Queen's cypher and lamb 3rd: dragon 4th: lion 5th: St. George and dragon 6th: antelope 7th: rose within crowned garter 9th: Britannia 23rd: Prince of Wales' feathers 27th: castle with three turrets and St. George's flag.

The 'Egyptian badge' — a sphinx upon a plinth inscribed 'Egypt' — was authorised for the 1st (2nd Bn. only), 2nd, 10th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 37th, 40th (flank coys. only), 44th, 50th, 58th, and 61st. The honour 'Minden' was authorised for the 20th, 23rd, and 37th; and the honour 'Gibraltar' for the flank coys. only of the 39th, 56th and 58th.

night and morning. At Madame's side walked an Irish nurse, carrying slung across her shoulder a bassinet made of green silk, in which lay an infant, the hope of the family. Behind Madame's mule marched a huge grenadier, the captain's faithful servant, with his musket over his shoulder, urging on with a stick the lady's long-eared steed. Behind him again came a donkey laden with the voluminous baggage of the family, surmounted by a tea-kettle and a cage of canaries. A groom or jockey in livery brought up the rear, mounted on a sturdy English horse . . . and . . . kept order among the four or five hunting dogs . . . which served as scouts to the captain during the march of his little cavalcade.¹²

As an example of the type of expenses which an officer would incur, and the purchases which he would make, the following are random extracts from the Peninsula account book of Wellington's engineer Sir Richard Fletcher, Bt., for 1811-13:¹³

Many officers equipped themselves with travelling dressing cases; this black leather example belonged to Lt.Gen. Sir Rowland Hill. (National Army Museum)

	£	s	d
Military Hat	3	12	0
25 Eight-dollar Pieces	45	15	6
Girths		9	0
Silver Cups	5	1	3
Subscription to Lisbon Gazette		18	0
Braga Shawls Paid	5	8	0
Portuguese Farrier for Horse Shoes		12	7½
Spanish Dictionary	2	6	6
Paid Mr. Lindergreen for Flannel	2	16	3
1812 Income tax	148	3	8
Cash paid for 50£ Bank of England Notes	40	15	8
Paid to Cook Domingus	3	17	10
Paid Mr. Batchlay for Poultry	7	14	0
Paid Antonio for a Mule	40	10	0
Paid Col. Hartman for a Horse	90	0	0
Paid Domingus' Wife	2	5	0
A View of Coimbra	5	8	0
Loaned to a French Deserter	21	7	6

While few line officers would trouble with carrying with them pictures of Coimbra, such expenses are otherwise typical, and reflect the demands upon the pocket of ordinary officers. The prices of items of uniform and equipment (see also Part 1) can be seen to be considerable, if compared with the average price of £30 for a horse. (The price of £90 quoted here probably reflects both the distance from the ports at which the deal was struck, and thoroughbred quality. In 1812 Fletcher bought another animal for £18.)

During the height of the campaigning season, however, when an officer's world was that which could be carried on his mule, his horse, or his own back, the comment which rings most true is that of Ensign Frederick Mainwaring of the 51st Foot: 'No one thought about the cut of a coat, or the fashion of a boot, or looked coldly upon his neighbour because his ragged garment was less fashionable than his own; sufficient was it that he had a coat on his back.'¹⁴

MI

Source notes:

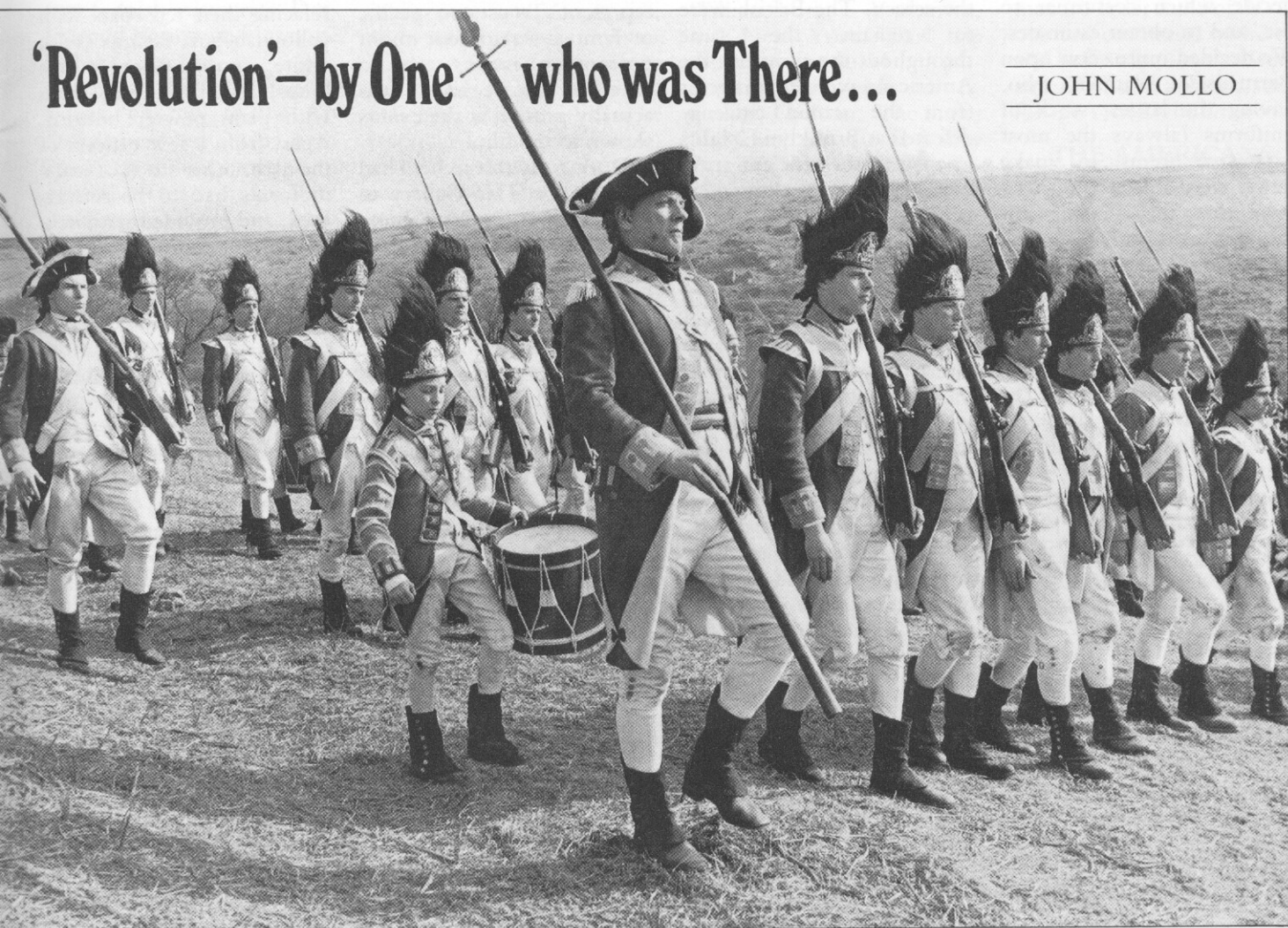
- (1) *History of the Dress of the Royal Regiment of Artillery*, R. J. Macdonald (London, 1899)
- (2) *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade* (London, 1830), and *Random Shots from a Rifleman* (London, 1835), Capt. Sir J. Kincaid, combined edn., London, undated

- (3) *Old Stick Leg: Extracts from the Diaries of Major Thomas Austin*, ed. Brig.Gen. H. H. Austin (London, 1926)
 - (4) *A British Rifle Man: Journals & Correspondence of Major George Simmons during the Peninsular War*, ed. Col. W. Verner (London, 1899)
 - (5) Kincaid, op. cit.
 - (6) *Life of a Soldier, a Narrative of 27 Years' service in various parts of the World*, Maj. H. Ross-Lewin (London, 1834)
 - (7) *The Subaltern*, Rev. G. R. Gleig (London, 1823)
 - (8) Kincaid, op. cit.
 - (9) Austin, op. cit.
 - (10) Kincaid, op. cit.
 - (11) *The Life of John Colborne, Field-Marshal Lord Seaton, compiled from his letters . . .*, G. C. Moore Smith (London, 1903)
 - (12) *Mémoires du Général Lejeune. En Prison et en Guerre. A Travers l'Europe 1809-1814* (Paris, 1896)
 - (13) Author's collection
 - (14) *Four Years of A Soldier's Life, by a Field Officer*, Frederick Mainwaring; *Colburn's United Service Magazine and Naval and Military Journal* (London, 1844)
- In addition to the sources noted above, the following will be found of use:
- Wellington's Army*, Sir C. W. C. Oman (London, 1912)
 - History of the Uniforms of the British Army, Vols. IV and V*, C. C. P. Lawson (London, 1966 & 1967)
 - Military Dress of the Peninsular War*, M. C. Windrow and G. A. Embleton (London, 1974)
 - Uniforms of the Peninsular War*, P. J. Haythornthwaite (Poole, 1978)



'Revolution'—by One who was There...

JOHN MOLLO



The most critical 'patrons' in the audience for any historical epic, on the large screen or the home TV set, are undoubtedly the military enthusiasts. So it seemed only fair to invite John Mollo — perhaps our most respected recreator of historical soldiers for the screen — to describe just what the job involves for the poor devils on the other side of the camera. We hope this article leaves readers with a new respect for these painstaking professionals, who often achieve spine-tingling effects while working under considerable difficulties.

Returning in late summer 1984 from a family holiday, well-earned during nearly a year spent working on Bruce Beresford's Biblical epic *King David*, I was pleasantly surprised to find, among bills and other assorted nasties, a script from Hugh Hudson. The title emblazoned on the front cover — *Revolution* — was intriguing; but not half as much as the opening lines of the script itself:

*New York, 1776
The United States of America declares Independence. British troops are massed in Brooklyn, determined to capture New York and regain their lost colonies...*

Further reading revealed one of those rare scripts tailor-made to my particular interests, which only seem to crop up every ten years or so: my last had been *Barry Lyndon* in 1974. The accompanying letter told me that Hugh would require my services

not only as Costume Designer but also as Military Adviser.

At a subsequent meeting with Hugh and producer Irwin Winkler I learned that this was to be a relatively low-budget film; since there would not be a vast amount to spend on costumes, as much 'stock' as possible was to be used, and everything was to look very 'broken down' (i.e. well used). Deals were done; and on 1 October I started work full time, the first member of the crew to be put on the payroll.

The first stage, as always, was to immerse myself in the period, reading as many books and looking at as many pictures as possible. Fortunately I had covered the ground pretty well while writing *Uniforms of the American Revolution* for Blandford Press; but this time there were civilian costumes to be considered, too.

The next task was to arrive

at some idea of the total numbers of costumes required for artists and crowd; and, armed with that information, to

The British advancing on the American lines at the Battle of Brooklyn Heights; 'Sgt. Maj. Peasy' (Donald Sutherland) is accompanied by his diminutive orderly drummer, 'Ben'.

In our innocence we had assumed (always a fatal error in the film business) that the drummer boys would be played by fairly strapping youths; so we had our new uniforms for the 'crowd' drummers made to stock sizes for ages of 14 or 15 years, and our drums copied from real period examples. When 'Ben' finally appeared, he was American, about ten years old, rather puny, and totally ignorant of drumming. When he tried to play a drum it banged around about two inches off the ground, and the poor child was unable to walk with it. It rapidly transpired that his comrades would be of a similar size; which meant making a completely new set of drums and uniforms — an example of the way in which 'low-budget' movies can gradually become inordinately expensive. (This, and all other photographs from the film, are by Murray Close, courtesy Goldcrest Films)

decide which costumer to use, and to obtain estimates. We decided quite soon upon Bermans & Nathans who, having the largest stock of uniforms (always the most expensive items to make new), were able to offer us a price for the whole film which was roughly in line with budget.

Bermans' stock of both British and American uniforms consisted of small groups of different styles and colours, and some way had to be found to 'unify' them, so as to make a bigger impact on

the screen. The British were to remain the same throughout the film; but the Americans were to progress from the armed citizenry defeated at Brooklyn Heights in 1776 to the efficient army victorious at Yorktown in 1781.

CHOOSING MY REGIMENT

The British were organised into a miniature force some 300 strong. The bulk consisted of infantry, divided into 150 'Hatmen', 50 Grenadiers and 50 Light Infantry. The rest of the force comprised 20 gunners and the same number of Light Dragoons, 15 drums and fifes, 12 musicians, plus various generals and officers. The next question was, what regiment should the infantry

represent? To use too specific or famous a regiment might prompt questions as to whether that regiment was actually present at the events shown in the film.

During my researches I had been to the Tate Gallery to look again at Copley's enormous canvas of the death of Major Pierson during the French 'attempt' on Jersey in 1781. This is an extremely impressive painting, full of wonderfully observed detail. Pierson and the other officers and men wear the uniform of the 95th Foot, one of numerous bodies of troops raised during the Revolutionary War and disbanded at its end: a suitably obscure unit for my purposes.

Now I had a regiment, Bermans were soon busily

refacing their red coats with yellowish-buff facings (with white, screen-printed lace loops) and furnishing them with plain pewter buttons. Apart from a few officers of the 95th, other stock officers' uniforms had to be retrimmed, and provided with new epaulettes and gorgets where necessary; together with a couple of generals and a staff officer these were to form a small group which could be used either in the military scenes, or mixed in with the civilian crowd. The troopers of the 17th Light Dragoons had to be 'made new', as Bermans had nothing suitable in stock. At this stage nothing could be done about the four main British military characters — Sgt. Peasy, Ben the drummer boy, and the

Winter 1777-78; at Valley Forge the Continental Army reaches its lowest ebb. Amid flurries of (paper) snow, 'Daisy McConahay', played by Nastassja Kinski, brings in a waggon loaded with much-needed supplies.



two foppish aristocrats, Darling and Hampton — as none had yet been cast.

While all this was going on, I was 'on call' to the Art Department to help with advice on military matters in general. This consisted of providing details of such things as 18th-century fortifications, the construction of gabions and fascines (eventually made in large numbers by an East Anglian hurdle-maker), artillery pieces, tools, ammunition, horse furniture, drums (proper wooden ones, made by Potters), fifes, and regimental colours (painted on silk).

As the costumiers could only provide the very simplest of crossbelts and pouches, good ones for foreground use — and all the

other necessary accessories, such as knapsacks, water bottles, drum and colour belts, fife cases, artillery pouches and belts — had to be researched and, in due course, made. Since at least two scenes would show a British encampment, officers' and privates' tents, drum and colour racks, musket racks, bells-of-arms, and camp colours were all specially made. These details were based on prints and watercolours of the day, particularly the plates in Grose's *Military Antiquities*.

Just before Christmas 1984 I was lucky enough to be sent on a research trip to the United States, where I visited Philadelphia (with a side trip to Valley Forge, where it obligingly snowed for me!),

Williamsburg, Yorktown, and New York. This trip proved invaluable, particularly my visit to G. Gedney Godwin, 'The Sutler of Mount Misery' at Valley Forge. This shop was a treasure trove of reproduction Revolutionary War artefacts, and an enormous crate of items was purchased and sent to England. It included samples of everything one could possibly need, from penknives, lanterns and tinderboxes to regimental buttons, grenadier cap plates and officers' gorgets. I was surprised to find how many items had in fact been made in Britain, in particular the regimental-pattern worsted braids, which he supplied to various re-enactment groups. On my return I asked Ber-

mans to order some of this for our new costumes, with a red and buff stripe for the drums and fifes, and a black stripe for the 17th Light Dragoons.

THE AMERICANS

Turning now to the Americans: the stock uniforms available resolved themselves into four main groups totalling some 175. The first two groups, of brown with red facings and green with white facings, were used in small numbers early in the film, mixed in with many armed civilians, and with rangers in rifle smocks — of which we had about 100 specially made. The other two groups — blue, faced with buff and red respectively — were used in the second half of the film to represent the Continental Line. These had to have a piece of white cloth fixed to the black cockades in their hats, to honour the alliance with France; and as the film was not made in chronological order, we had to make sure that the white cockades did not appear at the wrong stage of the war.

'Tonti', the Huron warrior who rescues 'Tom Dobb' and his son from the Iroquois, was played by Skeeter Vaughan, a celebrated Hollywood Indian and champion tomahawk thrower. Four genuine Indians came over from the United States and Canada, the remainder being conscripted from among the extras — those who were willing to have their heads shaved, for a small financial consideration, playing Iroquois.

As the summer of 1985 turned out to be more than usually repulsive, we dressed our Indians in European shirts, rifle smocks or skin coats, instead of just in the breech-clouts and leggings which would have been more accurate, but which would have been cruel and unusual punishment in these weather conditions. Bermans produced all the various pieces of beaded equipment, as well as jewellery, headpieces, and the actual garments, from my sketches. Funnily enough, there seems to be more information available on Indians in Britain than in the States; many interesting examples of 18th-century Indian artefacts are scattered through British collections, and I was told by the Librarian of the Indian Museum at Buffalo that the best source of books on the subject is Richard Cupidi's Public House Bookshop in Brighton, Sussex.



New uniforms were made for Washington and his staff, including one for Baron von Steuben, Washington's drill-master, complete with the embroidered star of the Baden Order of Fidelity (which, alas, like so many other details, was never to be seen in the finished film). Packs, water bottles, cartouche boxes, drums (decor-

ated with 13 interwoven circles and the motto 'We are one' worked in brass studs), and of course flags, were all researched and manufactured. The various changes in the 'Stars and Stripes' were important in marking the passage of time; once again, attention had to be paid to using the right flag on screen at the right time.

Particularly interesting for me, in that it was unknown territory and required the most research, were the Indian costumes. Two tribes were to be shown: the Iroquois, who fought on the British side, and the Hurons, who come to the aid of the film's hero 'Tom Dobb'. In order to make the adversaries more identifiable, dramatic licence was taken in giving the Iroquois shaven heads and the Hurons long hair.

During my visit to

Williamsburg I discovered striped Hudson's Bay blankets for sale at enormous cost. These were used as currency in trading for furs with the Indians, so many pelts per blanket depending upon the number of 'points' — black marks woven into the blanket. Research revealed that these blankets were in fact made in England, by Earleys of Witney, a company established so long ago that it actually pre-dates the Hudson's Bay Co. itself. A visit to Witney resulted in the purchase, for a fraction of the price charged in the States, of a large number of so-called 'seconds', perfectly suitable for our use.

By now it was February 1985; we were due to start shooting at the end of March; and although most things were well under way, we were still waiting for defini-

tive casting for most of our principals and small parts. The most important from the military point of view was the casting of the tough British NCO, Sgt. Peasy. It was therefore with a certain amount of trepidation that I learned that Donald Sutherland was to play this part, a mood not eased when a large, bearded, sun-glassed bundle of sheepskin shambled into the office one day for our inspection. The bear turned out to be friendly, however, and was prepared to listen — although he was clearly disturbed at the prospect of having to shave off his beard. Hugh Hudson was at length persuaded of the impossibility of an 18th-century British sergeant with a 'full set' and he in turn persuaded Donald — although a compromise involved leaving a hairy growth on one cheek,

Rebellious citizens of New York look on as British Light Infantry form up under the critical gaze of 'Sgt. Maj. Peasy'. There is plenty of evidence for the use of voluminous 'watchcoats' from at least the 1760s; in fact we used illustrations of Revenue officers in Pyne's Microcosm, dating from the 1790s, as the direct basis of Sutherland's coat seen here. Note the light infantry caps; these were based upon those of the 69th Foot, sketched and painted by de Loutherbourg at Warley Camp in 1778. These, like the grenadier caps and the reversed-colour coats of the drummers, all had to be made new for the film.





which later drew some adverse critical comment. To help him proceed along the right lines I pushed a few serious books on the British Army in Donald's direction, and I am glad to say that he did read them. He also, rather to my surprise, spent some time in his caravan on location watching the Queen's Birthday Parade on video.

The British lords, when finally cast, were to be dressed in regimental uniforms: Lord Darling in that of the 95th, and Lord Hampton in that of the 17th Light Dragoons. The problem with Hampton was that he had to be able to ride; and as any keen film and TV viewer is all too aware, the number of British actors who can ride well can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Luckily Richard O'Brien, who eventually got the part, rides extremely well. As a bonus, he has a splendid, totally bald head — of which full advantage was taken in one scene where he loses his wig.

ON LOCATION

The date of shooting was now getting alarmingly close. Gradually all the costumes were packed and sent up to King's Lynn, our first location, which was to stand in for 18th-century New York. All through a particularly cold East Anglian winter, construction crews had been turning the area around the 17th-century Custom House into an 18th-century seaport, complete with slums, ropewalks, taverns, and brothels. The Wardrobe was set up in an empty office block in the centre of town, three whole floors being devoted to costumes and one to Make-up and Hairdressing. In addition to clothes rails, benches, make-up lights and tables, washing and drying facilities also had to be installed.

The Wardrobe team, consisting of my assistant Nick Ede, a supervisor, and about 10 assistants — some recruited locally — started on

the crowd fittings. This involved trying out various costumes, making any necessary alterations, and numbering the outfits so that on the day the extras would be able to find and don their costumes as quickly as possible. In addition, a specialist 'breaking-down' team was engaged to do the intricate job of aging the brand-new costumes for the principals.

Having worked on several historical epics, I am fairly well versed in the sort of problems which can crop up for the technical adviser during the making of films with a military flavour. A certain amount of drill is usually called for, mainly loading and firing; but very little time, if any, is allowed for rehearsals. When it comes to the shooting there is never time to dwell on the details, so the aim is to give an overall impression of proficiency. I suggested to the production office that they take on a full-time drill instructor — a professional film crowd artist,

As Gen. Howe prepares to read the Royal Proclamation to the morose New Yorkers, a British howitzer trundles past the Light Infantry lining the street. The artillery pieces used in Revolution were made specially for the film by Lee International Studios of Wembley; the barrels were made in fibreglass by the plasterers, and the carriages in timber by the 'chippies' (American readers please note: in English usage, not a friendly young woman, but a carpenter). The French pieces were based on the Gribeauval system, the British on drawings in John Muller's Treatise of Artillery.

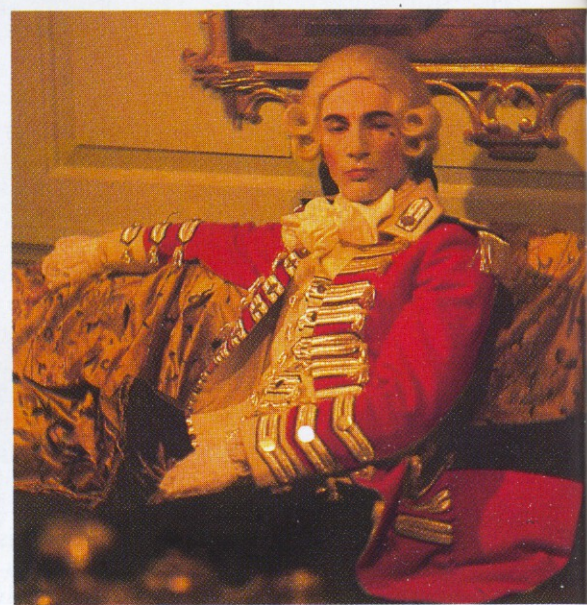
King St., King's Lynn was transformed with dampened mushroom compost spread over the tarmac; period shop signs and lamp-posts; and the Great Union flying over the old Custom House. ('Useless film people!' said one onlooker: 'They can't even get the Union Jack right!')

Colin Hunt, who has Army experience and who has done this sort of thing on several modern films. When he started he knew very little about 18th-century drill; but with the help of various period manuals he soon

continued on p. 42

A
British troops occupying New York form up to hear Gen. Howe (right) read the Royal proclamation. The 'Band of Musick' at the right were in fact borrowed from the Royal Air Force; but they were equipped with £20,000-worth of authentic hired instruments. The anachronistic Barbour-clad figure in the right foreground is the present writer.

B
Denis Lacroix, a Native American who lives in Canada, came over to play the part of an Iroquois warrior.





C
'Sgt. Maj. Peasy' and 'Ben' the drummer (Cameron Johann) stand among the graves of British troops outside New York, this time represented by Ely. In the background, the British camp stirs into life.

D
As the Americans prepare to repel the expected British assault on New York, 'Ned Dobb' (Sid Owen) is signed up by a recruiting sergeant. Note the detailing in brass studs on the drum. Brown coats 'turned up with red' were in fact worn by a number of Continental units, including the 6th and 12th Continental Regts. from Massachusetts, and the 9th Pennsylvania Regiment.

E
'Lord Hampton' (Richard O'Brien), billeted on the household of the New York merchant McConahay, takes his ease by candlelight. Director Hugh Hudson felt that for this scene the actual officers' uniforms were not sufficiently foppish. After much discussion I had to compromise — as one often must with directors — and invented a 'full dress uniform coat' for the 17th Light Dragoons which might, at a pinch, have been a 'fantasy' devised by the wearer.

F, G
The British troops enter New York: (right) the newly-recruited King's Lynn extras of 'His Majesty's 95th Regt. of Foot' stride out manfully in the shadow of their regimental colours; and (above) troopers of the 17th Light Dragoons.



'Tom Dobb' (Al Pacino) runs through an American battery outside Yorktown with his son and his Indian friends. The British redoubts in the middle distance were built 'for real'; the town itself, on the skyline, consists of ten-foot-high painted 'cut-outs'.

In Plymouth we co-opted on to our staff of instructors 'Taffy' McGraw, Chief Gunnery Instructor at Devonport, and for many years the trainer of RN Devonport's team for the Naval Field Gun Competition at the Royal Tournament. He was invaluable in teaching our raw 'recruits' the rudiments of 18th-century artillery drill.

picked up the rudiments. From the hundreds of locals who had applied for jobs as extras Colin picked those with military experience, formed them into small groups, taught them the principles of 18th-century drill, and sent them off to help drill the remainder.

In this way we were able to have two very good days rehearsing the British entry into New York, which was to be our first big scene, complete with costumes, props, musical 'playback' and weapons. Donald Sutherland attended these rehearsals; and, armed with a stout walking stick, was soon taking over from Colin Hunt, striding alongside the column of marching redcoats bawling out incomprehensible orders (shades of *Kelly's Heroes* . . .) much to the delight of the extras.

All the small arms used were hired from Bapty & Co., who have been specialising in all kinds of weaponry for the film and TV industries for many years. We hired several hundred 'muskets', as well as swords, pistols, halberds and pikes. A certain number of Brown Besses, both real and reproduction, were used for foreground action, and a lot of US Springfields for background. Being breech-loading, these were very useful for mass effects; they can be loaded easily with blank cartridge, and, with false flint-lock mechanisms added, they look fine from a distance.

Probably the biggest head-



ache for Bapty's representative in the field — Bill Aylmore, former weapons training instructor in the Royal West Kent Regt. — was security; he had to keep track of hundreds of weapons handed out, and signed for, each day. He also managed to prevent any serious accidents with these potentially dangerous weapons among the trigger-happy extras.

ENTRY INTO NEW YORK

After two or three days on a minor scene to shake the unit down, the day of the entry

into New York dawned. In the early morning light King Street looked just like an 18th-century print, an impression which intensified as the morning wore on and the street filled up gradually with assorted citizenry, and eventually with redcoats.

Each extra had to be processed through Wardrobe, Make-up, Hairdressing, Props, and finally, for those playing soldiers, the weapons truck. As the crowd assembled the British column formed up at the end of the street. At last everything was ready: the cameras turned,

Colin Hunt set his small army in motion, and to the strains of 'Yankee Doodle' coming over the playback speakers the long column of redcoats stepped off — drums beating, bayonets fixed, and colours flying.

It was one of those moments that occur all too rarely during film-making, when you feel you are watching the real thing; in fact, many hard-bitten film campaigners among the onlookers admitted that it had made their hair stand on end. (Unfortunately, as so often happens, much of it



ended up on the cutting room floor.)

For the remaining 18 weeks' shooting in Norfolk, Devon and London I 'stood by' on the set, ready to answer any technical questions which Hugh might hurl at me, and making sure that the Wardrobe Dept. ran smoothly. When we moved to Devon we had to find, fit, and drill new extras all over again, the only difference being that this time we were shooting battle scenes, so the emphasis was more on volley firing and artillery drill than on marching.

At last the principal photography came to an end, and the editing or 'post-production' phase began. The costumes were repaired, cleaned, and returned to Bermans; the props were returned to hire companies, sold, or otherwise disposed of; and the crew hustled back into hopefully temporary unemployment. At this point the director and editor take over, while the rest of us wait and hope that the final result will be a resounding success, with awards, and offers of fresh work showering upon us.

Unfortunately, film-mak-



Gerry Embleton's striking colour painting, reproduced on our cover, shows a private of the 1st New York Regiment of the Continental Line; raised in winter 1776-77 and finally disbanded in 1783, this unit fought under Col. van Schaik in James Clinton's brigade of Lincoln's division at Yorktown. Apart from the use of buff, rather than the regulation white linen for the overalls — well within the range of variation recorded from paintings, docu-

ments, and deserter descriptions of the day — this soldier wears the uniform prescribed in the General Order of 2 October 1779 for New York and New Jersey regiments: a white-trimmed hat (bearing the white additional cockade marking the French alliance), a dark blue coat lined white and, for New York, faced buff, with white metal 'NY' buttons, and a white waistcoat. The use of red paint to proof the canvas of knapsacks is well attested.

ing seems to be one of the more elaborate forms of gambling; and there appears to be no way of telling whether what you have 'in the can' will amount to a success or not. Sometimes films which you think will never reach the light of day become overnight blockbusters, like *Star Wars*; or they disappear almost without trace, like *King David*. Until the

moment when it came out everyone thought that *Revolution* was going to be a smash hit; in the event, it has turned out quite the opposite. But in spite of the appalling reviews, and the less-than-generous publicity it has received, 'one who was there' can assure you that there are many good things in the film, especially for enthusiasts of military history.

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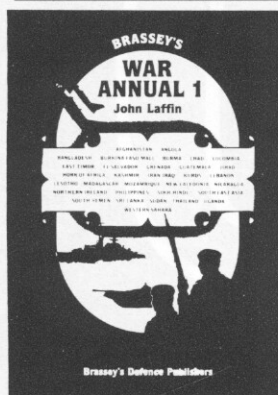
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Marcel Bigeard, Indo-China, 1953-54

DENIS LASSUS
Paintings by KEVIN LYLES

Born of humble parents at Toul on 14 February 1916, Bigeard had an indifferent formal education, being obliged to leave school at 12 to find work. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was recalled to the unit in which he had attained the rank of sergeant during his military service — 23rd Fortress Infantry — and rose to the rank of *adjudant* before being captured on 28 June 1940. Successful in his second escape attempt in November 1942, he made his way to join Free French forces in French West Africa. In summer 1944 he was parachuted into the Ariège area of France to work with the Maquis, and distinguished himself during the remaining months of the Occupation, earning several French and Allied decorations and finishing the war with the temporary rank of major. It was from this period that he took his radio callsign nickname of 'Bruno'.

During the reorganisation of the French Army which followed the war Bigeard, a major who had never formally passed for lieutenant or captain, was confirmed in the latter rank at the age of 29. It was as a captain in the 23rd Régiment d'Infanterie Coloniale that Bigeard landed at Saigon in October 1945 for his first tour of duty in the Far East.

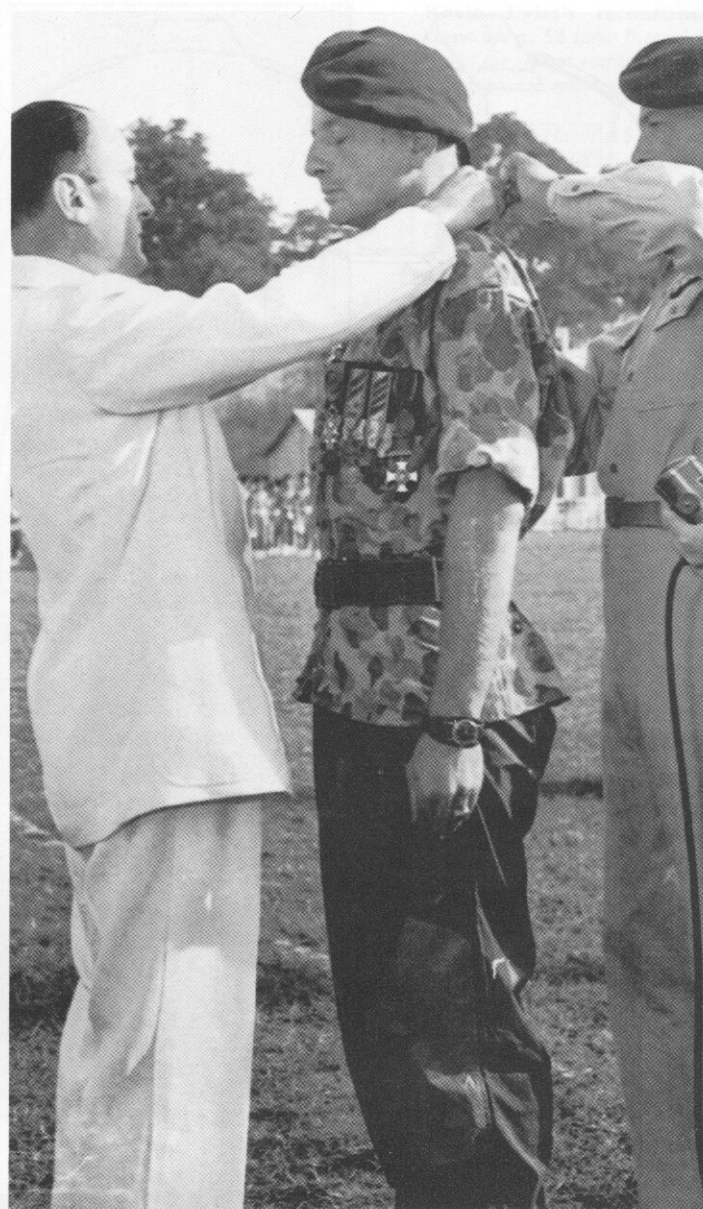
After the first operations in the Plain of Reeds, he took part in Gen. Leclerc's landings at Hanoi in March 1946. Volunteering to organise pro-French guerrillas in the remote Thai country of south-west Tonkin, he com-

manded the 3rd Coy. of the Thai Bn. from October 1946 to September 1947; he achieved notable results in the Phu Yen/Lai Chau region, before returning to France in October. Posted in February 1948 to the newly-forming 3^e Bataillon Colonial de Commandos Parachutistes, he embarked in October 1948 for his second tour in Indo-China as commander of its 2^e Groupe (company).

Capt. Bigeard left the 3^e BCCP in September 1949 to form and lead the 3^e Bataillon Thai — thus escaping, involuntarily, the massacre of the 3^e BCCP in the disaster of That Khe in October 1950. He later commanded the Bn. de Marche Thai; and was repatriated again in November 1950.

In France he took command of the newly-forming 6^e Bataillon de Parachutistes Coloniaux, being promoted *chef de bataillon* (major) on 1 January 1952. He disembarked at Haiphong with his battalion in July 1952.

Bigeard led his unit to an élite reputation as one of the spearhead battalions of the Expeditionary Corps' overstretched airborne reserve. In October 1952, dropped in the path of a massive Viet Minh advance to buy time for threatened French posts isolated in the Thai country, Bigeard led his unit in a fighting retreat from Tu Le. The 6^e BPC fought around Co Noi and Luang Prabang in late 1952/early 1953. It took part in the major airborne attack on Viet Minh depots around Lang Son in July 1953; and, in November that year,

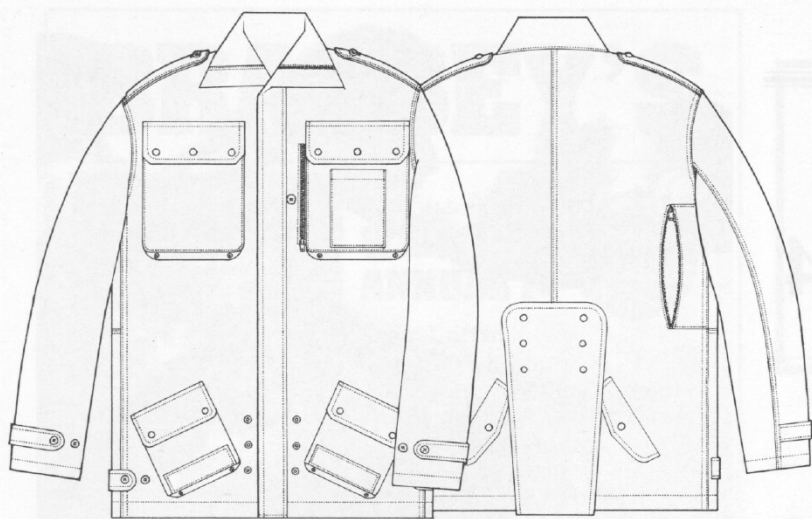


in the airborne operation which captured Dien Bien Phu.

Flown out for operations elsewhere once the valley was secured, Bigeard's battalion was dropped into the camp once again on 16 March 1954 as part of the reinforcement of a garrison now hard-pressed by massive enemy forces. Throughout the doomed defence of Dien Bien Phu Bigeard played a major part — with Lt. Col. Langlais — in the direction of the dwindling reserves in vigorous counter-attacks. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel in the field on 15 April. It is reported that when the camp fell on 7 May 1954 the Viet Minh troops searched for Bigeard by name.

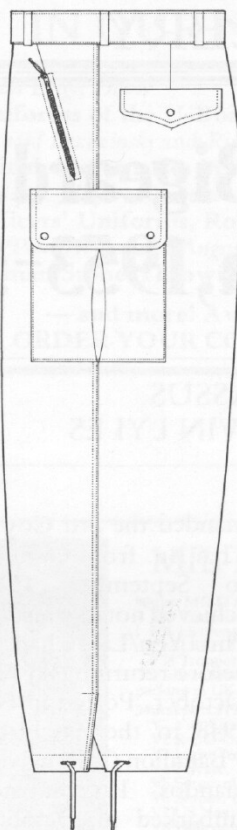
Bigeard was an inspiring unit commander, who

After extricating his battalion from Tu Le, Cdt. Bigeard is decorated, on 28 October 1952, with the cross of a Commander of the Legion of Honour. Like the rest of his battalion at this date, he wears a US Marine Corps pattern camouflage jacket — here, the rare USMC paratroop jump smock, its four front pockets with vertical openings, and its rear 'poacher's' pocket reached by vertical openings in the sides. (Photos taken during the retreat from Tu Le show that he had a similar jacket elasticated around the bottom hem.) The trousers are those of the British 1943 camouflaged windproof uniform. The beret is in the amarante of the Colonial Paratroops; the belt, the French mle. 1950 'TAP' type. Other decorations visible here are the cross of an Officer of the Legion of Honour; the War Cross 1939-45, with citation leaves and stars; the War Cross for Exterior Theatres of Operation, with leaves and stars; the Medal of the Resistance; the Volunteer Combatant's Cross; the Commemorative Medal 1939-45; and the British Distinguished Service Order. (ECPA)



Schematic drawings of the uniform items worn by Bigeard for the parade of 5 August 1953: his battalion was one of several which kept this kaki foncé jump uniform for parades, retaining camouflage fatigues for combat service. The veste de saut mle. 1947/51 and pantalon de saut mle. 1947 both appeared in camouflaged versions as well as the 'dark khaki' version (whose exact shade varied widely between greenish drab and tan drab). The characteristics of the smock are: large folded 'collar', 95mm deep; zip from waist to collar, concealed by fly front which also hid eight evenly spaced buttons; bellows pockets on chest and skirts, upper pair straight, with three snap fasteners, lower pair slanted, with two snaps, all four with two drainage eyelets in bottom corners; cloth tabs, each with two alternative buttons, above cuffs and on each hip, buttoning forwards; plain cuffs and hem with no elastic or drawstrings; Denison-type 'beaver tail' with six snaps; slanted internal pockets with single-snap flaps en accolade, each side of rear tail; and 240mm zipped ventilation slits in each side of rear body. The trousers were as illustrated, symmetrical in all respects except that the right hand side slash pocket did not have the zip fastener fitted to the left pocket. (Christa Hook)

stamped his personal standards on his battalion. He demanded high levels of fitness and stamina, and aggressive tactics; and surrounded himself with young lieutenants (there were few captains in his command) who would dedicate themselves to the unit, and to their commander's philosophy. He stressed 'suppleness' in action, perfecting an unconventional system of internal communications which demanded great discipline but paid dividends in quick response. He made sure that his men received the publicity and the



medals which he believed they deserved; this caused some jealousy among his peers, but no one could deny that the 'cinéma Bigeard' was a first-class fighting battalion, and the 6^eBPC fought to annihilation at Dien Bien Phu.



New honours are awarded to the 6^e BPC after the destruction of enemy depots at Lang Son; for this parade in Hanoi on 5 August 1953 Cdt. Bigeard wears the uniform shown in our colour reconstruction, p. 52 top. The right shoulder patch is that of the 1^{re} Demi-Brigade Coloniale de Commandos Parachutistes, the French-based higher formation for the Colonial Para units. The commander of this formation was Gen. Gilles, and the dragon motif was called a 'rabbit' — lapin; the slang name for the patch was therefore 'the agile rabbit' — lapin à Gilles. (ECPA)





UNIFORMS

Upon their arrival in July 1952 the 6^eBPC were equipped for combat with a mixture of US wartime vintage camouflage jackets of various patterns, and both the smocks and the trousers of the British 1943 windproof camouflage clothing. This latter was highly prized by the paratroopers for its lightness and coolness, and was called 'sausage skin'. The usual combination was the US smock and the British trousers. Webbing equipment was normally the French 'TAP mle. 1950', though some older US items and double-buckle boots were still to be seen. The French dark khaki jump suit Model 1947, though issued, was normally kept for parade dress.

In the battles of 1953 photographs show the 6^eBPC, and Bigeard himself, in uniforms re-cut from both the

smock and the trousers of the British camouflage cloth. At the end of that year the battalion received the French camouflaged jump suit, Model 1947/51 and /52, but Bigeard himself retained the old 'sausage skin' uniform (which, indeed, he still wore in Algeria).

Cdt. Bigeard made several experiments during this period to devise a suitable undress headgear as an alternative to the red beret. At Tu Le his men wore the issue khaki bush hat. At Na San in March 1953 they wore berets made from US camouflage cloth; and by the time of the Lang Son jump they had small-brimmed bush hats in the British style, cut from the British camouflage cloth and popularly known as 'fisherman's hats'. The definitive style, adopted by the battalion around the end of 1953, was the cap which would bear

Cdt. Bigeard at Dien Bien Phu, 16 March 1954: he injured his leg in the drop. He wears the same uniform as shown in our reconstruction, p. 52 bottom, except that the cap now appears to be made from British camouflage cloth, and he wears a chest rank patch. At least one photograph taken at Dien Bien Phu shows him wearing the British Denison smock instead; this was more common in the 8^eBPC than in Bigeard's 6^eBPC.

The paratrooper on the left appears to be wearing a largely unmodified set of British 1943 windproof camouflage clothing. The officer on the right wears the new French camouflaged jump uniform issued to the 6^eBPC late in 1953; note small frontal thigh pockets of the mle. 1947/52 trousers. (ECPA)

Bigeard's name when it became universal among the paratroopers in Algeria: a peaked field cap, apparently cut in both US and British camouflage cloth, which resembled the Japanese cap of the Second World War. [MI]

Kevin Lyles's reconstructions on p. 52 show Bigeard in two of the several outfits in which he was photographed.

Parading in Hanoi on 5 August 1953, he wears the 'dark khaki' mle. 1947/51 smock and mle. 1947 trousers. The beret of the Colonial Parachutists is of the large 'Commando' style, made in two pieces, with a crown seam; the rear tightening tapes were allowed to hang. The silver badge was then common to all airborne units. The belt is the French mle. 1950 TAP pattern, with British-style buckle; the French-made jump boots were normally polished black.

The rank galons of a major are worn as braid loops, in gold on black, on the shoulder straps; on combat clothing a single chest insignia was more common. The parachutist's qualification brevet, or plaque à vélo, is pinned above the right chest pocket; and below it, the battalion badge of the 6^eBPC in enamelled metal. The battalion's collective citations are marked by the pale blue and red fourragère of the War Cross for External Theatres of Operation on the left shoulder, here in the fancy presentation with tours de bras. The 1^{re} DBCCP's 'agile rabbit' patch is worn on the right shoulder only; on the left upper arm, the Colonial troops' patch — a dark blue diamond edged with two red pipings, bearing a fouled anchor in, for an officer, gold.

Cdt. Bigeard now wears the cross of Commander, Legion of Honour on its crimson cravat. His other decorations are largely as listed under the 1952 photograph, though re-arranged (against regulations, the DSO is worn first), and with extra citations on the Croix de Guerre TOE. Like his DSO, his Purple Heart is a souvenir of service with Allied troops in the Second World War. A breast star (hidden here — below and to his left of the medals) appears to be that of the Dragon of Annam.

On operations in early 1954, Bigeard is depicted in his complete uniform of British windproof camouflage clothing. The smock is heavily modified: the hood replaced by a shirt-style collar, the front opening enlarged and fitted with a zip. The trousers have been fitted with a fly. He wears US double-buckle boots; and the cap, tailored from US camouflage material, which was the prototype for that which later bore his name in Algeria. We take this view from a photograph of 6^eBPC during operations near Seno in Laos in January–February 1954. Characteristically, Bigeard wore minimal equipment, if any, and carried no weapon; equally characteristically, he is shown using the radio — his method of maintaining tactical control involved a battalion net all of whose stations were tuned to the same frequency, to which he listened constantly.

**Marcel Bigeard,
Indo-China, 1953-54**



Hanoi, August 1953



Seno, Laos, January 1954